

Stalemate in secret talks Waite could be captive for 'many weeks'

By Nicholas Beeson and Paul Valley

Secret negotiations over the return of the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, Mr Terry Waite, are stalemated and fears are growing that he will not be able to return to England for many weeks.

Mr Waite, who has now been missing for 13 days, has become the subject of complex bargaining between senior emissaries from Syria, Iran and Lebanese militia leaders.

Over the weekend the British Ambassador, Mr John Gray, met the leader of one of the negotiating groups, Mr Walid Jumblatt, whose Druze militia were originally acting as Mr Waite's bodyguards.

But their meeting produced "no dramatic results", according to the Foreign Office in London, which has now set up a crisis committee of Middle East and security specialists to liaise with friendly governments and Lebanese contacts in an effort to locate and retrieve the missing envoy.

Although the secret talks have run into early problems, it is said that Mr Waite's personal safety is of concern to

all the parties. One senior militia official told the Associated Press yesterday: "These hush-hush talks are in high gear. The parties concerned are burning the wires trying to ensure Mr Waite's safety. Syrian and Iranian emissaries are shuttling back and forth."

Churches of all denominations throughout Britain offered Sunday prayers for the safe return of Mr Waite who, it was disclosed by Lambeth Palace yesterday, left behind a letter to be opened in the event

of his being kidnapped. Although its contents remain confidential, it is thought to include a specific request that no-one should risk danger by going to look for him. It is also understood to forbid that "money or people" should be exchanged for him.

In Mr Waite's own parish church, All Saints in Blackheath, south-east London, they celebrated Candlemas much as the missing man would have hoped. In great ministers and in tiny parish churches all over Britain the prayer was the same. "What can we do? We can hope, we can pray, we can trust," said the Rt Rev David

Lunn, the Bishop of Sheffield, summarizing the nation's sentiments during special prayers in the city's cathedral.

At the Church of the Holy Trinity near Sittingbourne in Kent the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, asked the congregation at a confirmation service to pray for Mr Waite and his family.

After the service Dr Runcie, who looked strained and tired, said that he had not read the letter but that on earlier occasions Mr Waite had told him that, if he ever were kidnapped, he would not want a ransom paid or a rescue mission mounted. Dr Runcie admitted that he has become increasingly worried as each day passes.

Mr Jumblatt is widely regarded as the only Lebanese in the Muslim community with the power and the will to rescue Mr Waite. The Druze warlord, who guaranteed Mr Waite's safety before he left Britain, is visibly embarrassed by the persistent reports in Beirut that Mr Waite is being held hostage by Shia Muslim fundamentalists loyal to Iran.

"We are just keeping in touch with people who, let's say, have a certain kind of relationship with Mr Waite and the imprisoned Americans," Mr Jumblatt said on Saturday. He added that there were "rumours" that Mr Waite was being held against his will, but emphasized that "nothing precise" was known. He said he would offer himself as a substitute hostage for Mr Waite if that would secure his deliverance.

Hostage deadline

The kidnappers of three Americans and one Indian have threatened to kill the four men unless Israel releases 400 Palestinian prisoners during this week.

Israel rejects deal

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THE TIMES One section and more information

The Times last week reached the end of an historic year, its first at the new technology plant in Wapping, east London. The change to modern production methods brought many advantages, including vastly improved printing quality and faster response to late news. Today we take another step forward.

One of the production consequences of the move to Wapping was that The Times had to be printed in two sections, a change that many readers found unhelpful. The technical problems have now been overcome and from today The Times will be published in one editorial section each day with occasional special supplements.

Also today, we are greatly expanding one of the most popular sections of the newspaper, The Times Information Service. Already a uniquely valued guide, it expands to a full page - page 20 - and will carry, every day, a comprehensive entertainment guide, including times and programme notes, set out in an easy-to-read way, in addition to its existing contents.

Sport is established on the back page, along with the weather forecast and The Times crossword. The concise crossword moves from Spectrum to the Television Page, page 35.

Readers of editions printed in Glasgow will continue to receive their newspaper in two sections until the end of February.

Business news

The Times Business and Financial news section examines the week of pressure ahead for Mr James Baker, who flew to Saudi Arabia yesterday on his dollar crisis mission, page 25. Comment column and City Diary, page 25; and prices, page 22.

Portfolio Gold

There is £28,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition, double the usual amount because there was no daily winner on Saturday.
The weekly prize of £28,000 was shared on Saturday by three readers. Details, page 3.
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A Special Branch officer leaving the BBC offices in Glasgow yesterday with a box of files seized during the 28-hour raid.

Seizure warrants battle is lost

By David Sapsted

The BBC conceded defeat yesterday as Special Branch officers completed their seizure of all film and documents from The Secret Society series from the corporation's Glasgow headquarters.

Mr Alan Protheroe, the assistant director-general, accepted that the battle over the legality of the seizure warrants had been lost.

He said he would hold talks with legal advisers to decide the next step, "not necessarily in terms of the recovery of this material, because all they would do is get a new warrant, but whether there is a constitutional and fine legal point that can be argued" over Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, under which the material was seized.

Ten officers from Strathclyde and the Metropolitan Police were involved in the 28-hour operation, which led to documents and 200 containers of film and video, including discarded clips, being ferried away in two police vans.

The material from the six-part series included the contentious programme detailing Britain's £500 million plan for the Zircon spy satellite. Although the BBC decided not to show the programme on the grounds of national security, its content subsequently appeared in The New Statesman.

It took the police three warrants to get hold of the film. The first was successfully challenged by the BBC on Saturday for being too general, while the second applied to a Glasgow flat used by Mr Duncan Campbell, the journalist behind the Zircon revelations. Mr Protheroe said the weekend's events illustrated the "extraordinary" state of the Official Secrets Act.

Lord Annan, who chaired the Committee on the Future of Broadcasting, yesterday blamed "a series of own goals" for the departure of Mr Alasdair Milne, although he did not think it was directly linked to the Zircon affair.

BBC challenge on police raid urged by Owen

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, yesterday condemned the raid on the BBC's Scottish offices and urged the BBC to use all the resources at its disposal to fight the Government in the courts over the Zircon satellite affair and the Secret Society series.

Dr Owen, who recently took court action on behalf of the Alliance against the BBC in an attempt to win more air time for his party, said at the SDP Council meeting in Bournemouth that the time had come to defend the BBC.

He described the recent sequence of events - first the cancellation of the Zircon satellite film, then the departure of Mr Alasdair Milne, the BBC's director general, then the search of the Scottish offices of the BBC in a 28-hour raid in which three vanloads of material were removed - as something which "troubles us all".

There were questions, he said, both about the judgement and the competence of those charged with guarding the nation's secrets, and about what precisely they were guarding.

Then, to applause, he went on: "The state is not entitled to go on a fishing expedition, to ransack offices and to look wherever they want. The state has to be answerable to a rule of law."

Dr Owen said: "The BBC must not take this latest incident (the search) lying down."

"They should use the courts to the fullest extent possible to recover first of all material that should never have been taken away in the first place but also to challenge the whole basis on which this operation has been conducted and the whole concept that lay behind it."

Saying that it was up to the board of governors of the BBC to decide on management changes (for example, the dismissal of Mr Milne) and that that was their affair, Dr Owen went on: "What is our affair is that the board of

governors should not be seen, or even thought, to bend the knee to this or any other government."

Conservatives were quick to point out that Dr Owen was keen to maintain political momentum for his party after the Alliance's rally at the Barbican at the weekend and were discounting his intervention as a party political move to advertise the Alliance's long-term commitment to a Bill of Rights and a Freedom of Information Act.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour's home affairs spokesman, also condemned the search of the BBC offices.

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saying that it was a "major menace to civil liberty".

The issue will clearly be raised in the Commons today. Declaring that civil liberties were under threat in Britain, Dr Owen said that the Secret Society affair underlined the need for a Bill of Rights.

He urged people all over the country to write to their MPs urging them to back the private member's Bill to be introduced on Friday by Sir Edward Gardner, Conservative MP for Fylde.

Sir Edward's Bill, which has all-party support, provides for the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights in British law.

Sir Edward said last night: "I am most happy to have Dr Owen share with others the anxiety to see the Human Rights Bill become law."

The SDP leader said last night that he would be changing his programme to make sure that he was there to vote for it.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, has already pledged his support.

But Sir Edward who is chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, still has to ensure that he has 100 supporters on the day to vote down any attempt to force the closure.

School heads fear more disruption over new pay deal

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Fears that schools in England and Wales are about to suffer from a renewed campaign of disruption were voiced yesterday by the National Association of Head Teachers.

The association, which represents three-quarters of all heads, believes that "guerrilla warfare" will break out as soon as Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, imposes his pay-and-conditions package on the country's 400,000-strong teaching force.

Leaders of the two biggest unions, the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which together represent the overwhelming majority of classroom teachers, are known to be planning a campaign of "joint action", falling short of strikes but including a policy of non-cooperation.

Head teachers fear that many Labour-controlled local education authorities, who are also opposed to the imposition of a deal, will do nothing to prevent the teachers taking disruptive action even though they are the teachers' employers. Such a policy has already been debated by the education committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which represents most Labour councils.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the NAHT, said he was worried that some authorities would do nothing to enforce Mr Baker's 19-point contract, which is to become binding on all teachers once the deal is imposed. It requires them to take classes for absent colleagues, attend staff meetings and submit to regular appraisals of classroom performance.

Mr Hart said: "Local authorities are going to face a very acute position once Parliament passes the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill. If they do not enforce the law of the land they could be surcharged by the district auditor for wasting ratepayers' money. Parents and the general public will not tolerate more disruption and upheaval in schools. What we need now is a lengthy period of peace for the sake of the children."

Last night, a spokesman for the local education authorities acknowledged that some councils were considering "colluding" with the unions by not enforcing Mr Baker's conditions.

Schools in London, where teachers are among the most militant in the country, are likely to be the worst affected by a renewed campaign of disruption. Already thousands of children are being sent home every week because teachers are refusing to cover.

Funding of small firms 'a disgrace'

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The refusal of Britain's multi-billion pound pension funds and insurance companies to invest in small business was condemned as a "national disgrace" by a government minister last night.

Mr David Trippier, Minister for Small Firms, disclosed that barely 1 per cent of their huge financial resources are being used to back small but growing companies not quoted on the Stock Exchange. He believes that doubling this investment could create at least 10,000 new jobs a year.

"Given that their total funds were estimated at £170 billion in 1983, and taking account of the 100 per cent rise in the FT30 share index since 1983 this is a national disgrace."

"How will the ever increasing population who will have to rely on these funds fare if the custodians of their future do not invest in young companies which will grow to become the employers and

wealth creators of the future? This disgrace is compounded when you see how much of all this investment remains in the South-east."

A recent venture capital survey showed that 63.5 per cent of funds were invested in companies in Greater London and the South-east, compared to as little as 5.1 per cent in the whole of the North, Yorkshire and Humberside.

Mr Trippier is so appalled that he intends to summon a selected number of investment managers to the Department of Employment to suggest a fundamental reappraisal in attitude.

Mr Trippier, speaking in his Rensselaire and Darwin constituency, said if Britain was to capitalize on the new entrepreneurial spirit "ways must be found of persuading these funds to significantly increase their investments in young companies".

About £18 billion a year was

'No strings' say Telecom engineers

By Tim Jones

The executive of the National Communications Union, under pressure from members to make no deal with British Telecom management that includes attaching "strings" to their 10 per cent pay claim, will meet today to decide if there is enough common ground for talks to begin.

Mr John Golding, the union's general secretary, believes any attempt by Telecom to impose a settlement would mean unhealthy labour relations for years to come. Telecom's case is that its pay offer, when it was made, was

more than twice the rate of inflation and that the company cannot prosper unless outdated work practices are changed.

By splendid irony, the dispute has caused Mr Golding's wife, Mrs Lynn Golding, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, to complain to the Prime Minister of falling standards of phone-tapping.

Whatever she may think of her husband being a target for the Secret Service, Mrs Golding realizes that telecommunications are strategically important and does not want potential spies to share the experiences of her husband.



Mr Golding: Under pressure to continue strike

When he picked up his phone recently, Mr Golding heard a police sergeant inform

him he was ending his shift and on another occasion heard a recording of his last telephone conversation. Leaders of the dispute, the first national stoppage in the union's moderate history, consider the management offer of a package worth about six per cent is no basis on which to agree to more flexible working.

Switchboards at three hospitals in Manchester were finding it difficult to make outgoing calls, yesterday, but hospitals in London, Birmingham and Newcastle reported no problems.

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Shadow of Nixon looms over Reagan diaries

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Senior congressmen are to seek access to private notes that President Reagan keeps for his memoirs and which are believed to contain material about the Iran arms scandal.

The White House will resist the move on the ground that the diaries are not part of official records.

Members of the Senate select committee investigating the Iran-Contra arms deal are expected to request the diaries this week on the ground that

they might be relevant. The demand could lead to a drawn-out legal fight with parallels to the battle over the Nixon tapes, which were handed over after the Supreme Court decided the President must turn over relevant evidence in a criminal investigation.

The committee may also seek to interview Mr Edmund Morris, an author who is working on a biography of Mr Reagan and who has been given exceptional access to the President, including sitting in on key meetings. He attended

White House meetings for more than a year.

Committee members say the Nixon tapes ruling could be invoked by Mr Lawrence Walsh, who is conducting criminal investigations into the Iran-Contra affair. However, the law is not so clear about congressional subpoenas.

According to an account published in The Washington Post yesterday, Mr Donald Regan, the White House Chief of Staff, told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence last month that the President

"of course keeps notes" and that he took offence that the committee might think the file would be available for its investigation.

A White House official said yesterday that Mr Reagan "does, from time to time, in the evening and in the residence, make private notes on what he does during the day. So they do exist and they are private." The notes had not been asked for.

In another development, Mr Mitchell Daniels, the White House Political Director, announced on Saturday

that he is resigning to pursue "economic opportunities". He failed last December to persuade Mr Reagan to resign over the Iran affair. Mr Regan sought, and won, the President's personal support.

Mr Robert McFarlane, the former White House National Security Adviser, who initiated the Iran dealings, said during the weekend that he would not have done so if he had known the Iran middleman was an expatriate arms dealer who was regarded as unreliable by American intelligence.

Guinness bankers shake-up

By Richard Thomson

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant banking group which has suffered heavily from the Guinness scandal, is to announce sweeping management changes today following an internal review.

An interim draft of the review has already been sent to the Bank of England.

The changes will open up the decision-making structure to younger members of the group, but will also centralize the reporting structure by giving more power to the group's executive committee.

The Bank of England ordered the review, and the Governor, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, asked for an interim report by the end of January.

City concerns over the group continued during the weekend with persistent suggestions that the Bank of England had been urging Lloyds Bank to consider making a bid for Morgan. Lloyds refused to comment.

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Lawyers' watchdog expects 4,000 more complaints a year

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The new Solicitors Complaints Bureau is bracing itself for an extra 4,000 complaints from the public as a result of new powers which came into force at the start of this year.

The powers, under the Administration of Justice Act, 1985, give the bureau authority to tackle a wide range of lesser complaints amounting to "shoddy work" by solicitors, and not just professional misconduct as before.

Mr Michael Winterton, the bureau's deputy director, said that with the rising tide of complaints annually, the bureau was estimating some 4,000 extra complaints by the end of this year.

The bureau set up on September 1 last year to operate from offices in Central London separate from the Law Society, says that complaints against solicitors last year totalled 16,000, 31 per cent more than the year before.

"We are now budgeting for a total of 20,000 complaints in the current year," it said. The bureau's lay investigation committee will act as a watchdog on how it works. That key committee has been created after public dis-

satisfaction with the way the Law Society had previously handled complaints. No complaint file can be closed without its approval.

The power to tackle shoddy work means that the bureau can call in a solicitor's file and order him to take action to put the client in the position he would have been if the work had been done properly.

The most common sanction is expected to be the power to order a solicitor to reduce his bill. That would be done where the bureau judged the solicitor had taken unreasonably long on a particular job or charged unreasonably for it.

The bureau will also be able to order a solicitor to rectify the results of his incompetence, such as redrafting a conveyance at his own expense. It can order him to take any action it thinks fit in the interests of the client.

The powers may be used together or separately and will apply to the whole spectrum of incompetence, which can be very wide, Mr Winterton said.

"If a solicitor is guilty of delay in the administration of an estate, we believe we could instruct him to hand over the file to another solicitor of the client's own choice, with the

solicitor under complaint picking up the bill for any additional expense," he said.

Apart from delay, "shoddy work" could involve failure to explain matters properly to the client, so that he gives incorrect instructions, or delegating a matter to a junior solicitor or articled clerk unable to deal with it.

As before, the more serious complaints of negligence where the client has suffered a quantifiable loss, or of professional misconduct, are dealt with separately.

Complaints of negligence, where the client has a claim, must either be pursued in the courts or the bureau will refer clients to one of its "negligence panel" solicitors, who will give an hour's free advice and if necessary take proceedings.

Small claims can be settled under the recently launched negligence arbitration scheme, if solicitor and client agree.

Where bureau considers there may be professional misconduct, the matter can go to the lay adjudication committee or the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal which has powers to fine, reprimand, suspend or strike off the roll.

Solicitors' views canvassed

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

About 5,000 solicitors in the City of London are being asked whether they support the abolition of restrictive professional rules which stop them forming "multidisciplinary practices" with other professionals.

The changes, over which the profession is split, have already been strongly urged by Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading and the Government has made clear it is considering action to implement them.

In a letter to all City solicitors, Sir Max Williams, president of the City of London Law Society, asks for views as a matter of urgency so that the profession is not "overtaken by government action".

At present solicitors may only practise together. But Sir Gordon Borrie said there was public demand for mixed working arrangements, particularly in conveyancing.

Mixed practices would open the doors to "one stop" house-buying services, with solicitors, surveyors and estate agents under one roof; or to solicitors working with accountants or patent agents.

The 4,000 City solicitors are being sent the findings of a City of London Law Society working party which comes down in favour of mixed practices.

The group also favours a change to the rules which at present do not allow solicitors to incorporate with limited liability.

Call to abolish oral hearings

The Law Society wants to abolish oral hearings in small claims cases where both sides agree.

Although a "paper" hearing would deprive both sides of "their day in court", in some small claims the cost is not justified, the society says.

Its comments are made in a paper published today in response to a consultation document on the "small claims" procedure issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department.

A paper hearing would attract claimants who are deterred through fear of attending court or because of the time involved. It would speed settlements and be less costly, it says.

The society is against any big extension of the small claims procedure to larger claims.

It says it believes "many of the professions would now welcome multidisciplinary practices".

Sir Max Williams, a past president of the Law Society of England and Wales, has made no secret of his view that solicitors should be free to form mixed practices. But he believes individual solicitors should have a chance to express their views.

The issue of mixed practices was hotly debated at the Law Society's autumn conference.

The society itself has so far taken a cautious line, and it criticized Sir Gordon's report for failing to analyse the full implications of such a change.

But the working party report says that while some aspects of mixed practices, such as client confidentiality, must be considered carefully, they can be overcome.

There was no reason why in mixed practices there should not be control on solicitors' fees; safeguards for client confidentiality; insurance protection against fraud and negligence; nor why solicitors should not still be subject to strict rules of conduct of their own governing bodies.

It adds that partnerships should only be allowed with professions with similar ethical, disciplinary and financial rules to solicitors.

Another objection to mixed practices has been that solicitors in a minority would be overwhelmed. But the working party says to insist that solicitors only join in where they are in a majority is defensive.

One reason why solicitors have lost work to other professions "has been inability to broaden their horizons" and "this defensive attitude will not halt the decline," it says.

The pace of change has been accelerated by licensed conveyancers, government proposals to allow building societies to do conveyancing and a government committee has recommended that solicitors be able to link with estate agents, the working party said.

Fears of a cocaine 'explosion'

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

A Home Office minister last night spoke of his fears of a cocaine explosion in Britain after the seizure of the country's biggest haul of the drug.

The 43 kilogrammes of cocaine intercepted by police in Essex on Friday was equivalent to 40 per cent of the total seizures of the drug in Britain last year. The haul had a street value of £6 million.

Mr David Mellor, who has masterminded the Government's anti-drug campaign, said: "This could well be a sign that the effort we have always predicted would be made to get the drug into Britain is now underway."

"Evidence pours out of the United States that cocaine is even more addictive and dangerous than heroin and we have to redouble our efforts to ensure that people won't accept this drug."

Mr Mellor added: "Everyone is aware of just how quickly a cocaine explosion can take place, so no one must be complacent."

Aircrew stand by for heart attacks

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Flight attendants on British Caledonian's long-haul aircraft have become the first cabin crew of any airline to be trained in techniques that could save the lives of passengers suffering from heart attacks and other sudden serious illnesses.

The training of selected crew members as "flying nurses" includes a visit to the cardiac unit of the Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton, where emergency resuscitation methods have been developed.

Crew on the airline's intercontinental flights will have the use of defibrillators - portable machines which deliver an electric shock to the chest of a heart-attack victim to stimulate the organ back into action.

Dr Peter Chapman, British Caledonian's chief medical officer, said that the use of a semi-automatic defibrillator by a trained flight attendant made the recovery of cardiac arrest victims "at least a possibility".

He said that the airline believed that "well-motivated

and highly intelligent" volunteers among the crew of larger aircraft could be trained to diagnose and treat "virtually all the important conditions they are likely to encounter".

Heart attacks on aircraft are extremely rare; only about 70 such cases occur a year among all airlines.

Last year, after an elderly man flying on Concorde from London to New York collapsed and died, despite the efforts of other passengers and cabin crew to save him, Lord King, chairman of British Airways, said the airline was considering extending medical training for some cabin staff "to enable them to function in a paramedical role".

The lure of tarmac has led more than 1,000 Japanese women to apply for 42 jobs as flight attendants on British Caledonian's planned new Gatwick-Tokyo service.

Two complete flight deck crews will be needed to fly British Airways 747 jets on new non-stop services to Hong Kong from April 4. The crews will work a shift system during the 13-hour flights.

British wine-buying bubbles ahead

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Britain, already the world's largest importer of champagne, has now overtaken the United States as the biggest buyer of French wines, according to the French government marketing organisation, Food and Wine from France.

Last year, total wine consumption in Britain rose to 14.8 bottles a person which, although well below the average in the main European wine producing countries and only a fraction of what many individual Britons drink, indicates the extent to which wine is making inroads into

traditional domestic tipples like beer and whisky.

During the year, French producers increased their share of the British market from 40 to 45 per cent; the German share dipped slightly to about 30 per cent, while Italy and Spain accounted for about 15 and 7 per cent respectively.

Consumption was highest in London and the South, but Scotland topped the league for red wine consumption.

Publication of the figures coincides with this week's International Food and Drink

Exhibition, in London, where the organisers have criticized the relatively low key display by Food from Britain, which is supposed to be the home side's answer to French competition.

However, a new guide to traditional British food (British Food Finds, Rich and Green, £14.95), restores the balance by listing such currently available games as goat sausages, smoked rabbit, wild boar and reindeer, and more than 200 handmade farmhouse cheeses. The book also lists three small producers and one supplier of truffles.



Alison Wilshaw holding her horse, Perry, yesterday while Mr John Elliott carries out a freeze branding on a farm near Carle Mullen, Dorset, as a protection against theft. The technique, using an iron cooled in dry ice to -70C, costs £20 and is less traumatic than hot branding. It leaves a distinctive and permanent mark (Photograph: John Rogers).

Peanut cancer risk move

The Government looks certain to introduce legislation to control the level of cancer-causing aflatoxin found in some peanut butter sold in health food stores.

Aflatoxin is secreted by a mould growing on peanuts. The chemical is toxic in the minutest quantities and is thought to cause liver cancer. It is believed that peanut products from health food stores present a particular risk because of the lower level of processing they undergo.

Concern over the standards of some health food firms led the independent Food Advisory Committee to recommend a mandatory maximum. The new controls are expected to be introduced by Easter.

Abortion abuse

Child's sex 'sways mothers'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Medical scientists fear that pre-natal diagnostic tests, which can determine the sex of the child, are being abused by mothers who seek abortions purely on the ground of the baby's sex.

Two reports have shown that "wrong-sex abortions", common in China and India, are now taking place in Britain. The problem is still thought to be rare in Britain. "A number of mothers are actually giving wrong information so that they can get the tests," Professor Malcolm Ferguson-Smith, professor of medical genetics at Glasgow University, said.

"Some doctors then discover that women have had abortions in private clinics even if there were no fetal abnormalities because 'the

child was not the sex they wanted."

The tests are usually reserved for mothers aged over 35 or those who risk a foetal abnormality for other reasons.

Professor Ferguson-Smith is a member of the Association of Clinical Cytogeneticists. It will discuss today whether geneticists should continue to reveal the sex of the child to the obstetrician and parents. "If there is a chance of some people misusing the test, some would feel that we should not indicate the sex on the report form," Professor Ferguson-Smith said.

Most of the 20,000 mothers who are given pre-natal diagnostic tests for genuine reasons are tested at the sixteenth week of pregnancy by a process called amnio-

centesis in which a fluid sample from the womb is taken.

One European study has shown that only 12 out of 1,000 women who had pre-natal diagnostic tests sought termination when there were no foetal abnormalities.

But he is alarmed by two recent developments.

First, a recent survey in North America has shown that a high proportion of American geneticists believe that a mother should have the right to choose the baby's sex.

Secondly, a new pre-natal diagnostic test with placenta samples, which can be done at eight instead of 16 weeks, could encourage more mothers to abuse the tests.

Portfolio Gold - A birthday cake and 75 candles

Mrs Anriol Shannon has planned a special seventy-fifth birthday celebration this week, with her share of the weekly Portfolio Gold prize of £8,000.

She is one of three readers who share the weekly dividend and each receives £2,666.

Mrs Shannon, a widow, of Halesworth, Suffolk, said: "I was thrilled to bits to find I had won. It is my seventy-fifth birthday on Wednesday so I plan to buy a special cake - with 75 candles!"

Mrs Shannon has been a reader of The Times for more than 20 years. She plans to use some of her prize to help her family.

Mrs Gail Boff, aged 39, a secretary, of Rugby, Warwickshire, has played Portfolio Gold since the game started.

She plans to use some of her prize money for a holiday.

The third prize-winner was Mrs Vera Ambler, a factory receptionist, from Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

She is going to buy a dishwasher.

There was no winner of Saturday's daily prize of £4,000, so today's dividend is £8,000.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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DJ retires

Stuart Henry, aged 44, the Radio Luxembourg disc jockey, has announced his retirement from broadcasting after a long fight against multiple sclerosis. The show will now be presented by his wife Ollie.

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Alliance rally / SDP Council

'Public interest' battle under way

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The SDP and Liberal leaders, Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel, launched the Alliance election campaign at the Barbican rally in the City on Saturday, claiming that neither the Conservative Party nor Labour could unite the nation and that it was the Alliance that stood for "the public interest".

In two widely contrasting speeches the two leaders made plain their election tactics. The Alliance pitch is to be against what they call the "corruption" of power by the two big parties.

The attack on the Tories is to be that a Government without compassion has divided the nation into North and South, winners and losers. It represents a secret society as opposed to the open society with a Bill of Rights, a Freedom of Information Act and electoral reform promised by the Alliance.

The Government is to be derided for "short termism" and for too much readiness to accept that problems such as unemployment cannot be solved.

As for Labour, they are to be depicted as losers who could never again hope to form a government, in an attempt to maximize for the Alliance the anti-Government protest vote. The message will be: if you want to see what a Labour government would do for Britain, then look at what the "loony left" does in the country's town halls.

The Barbican rally, complete with new yellow campaigning colour and the hijacking of the Alliance theme music of Purcell's Trumpet Tune in D, was designed to lure the Alliance after a disastrous autumn slump in the polls in the wake of the summer split on defence.

It was clearly a success with the party activists, and the Alliance leaders will now wait nervously for the pollsters' verdict on how it has impressed the election. As the former Liberal leader, Lord Grimond, said, amid the genteel razzmatazz provided by television quiz master Bamber Gascoigne and the Rothwell Temperance Brass Band, surely "no other party could persuade 2,500 people to spend £7.50 listening to 18 speeches on a Saturday afternoon", though he may have been overdoing it a little when he added that it must "strike terror into the heart of other parties".

Certainly the Alliance gave the air of being back in business as Dr Owen reminded them that, with an average 35 per cent of the vote in the 14 by-elections this Parliament, they had polled more than either Labour or Conservatives. They now had 3,000 councillors and control of or influence over a hundred councils, where they had shown they could "knock out the nonsense" of extremism.

In a measured, low-key address, Dr Owen insisted that the Alliance was not just about winning elections but about changing the whole nature of British politics. Proportional representation was the way to root out extremism and to get more women into Parliament and end an all-white Parliament.

Mr Steel, who with some good jokes and more of a battle cry, won an ovation not accorded to Dr Owen, declared that it was "realistically impossible" that Labour could win a majority at the next election. "Labour are losers". What Labour offered could be seen in the Militantly-ruled town halls. But the Con-



Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr David Steel catching the Alliance mood at the Barbican (Photograph: Dod Miller).

vatives were none too keen on democracy. With the reforms now mooted in the Soviet Union, it was likely that General Secretary Gorbachev would be elected before party chairman Tebbit.

Mr Steel pointed out that this time the Alliance had full agreement already on which partner would fight which constituency and an agreed team of Alliance spokesmen, something conspicuously lacking in 1983.

Mr Roy Jenkins was received with more affection than anybody in his affirmation that the Alliance believed in the solubility of Britain's

problems and his call for "rational panache". The carefully nurtured image of a shining new party offering a break with the past slipped a little in a trenchant speech from Lady Sear. If the other parties, as the Alliance claims, are "dinosaurs", she reminded us that they at least have their old warhorses.

Declaring: "The welfare state is safe in our hands... we after all invented it in the great Liberal Government of 1906". But the most robust, not to say brutal contribution, came from the former Liberal MP Mr John Pardoe, with a blunt appeal to the City for funds.

Industry, the City, Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Alliance all believed, he said, that socialism had to be buried.

The way to do that was first to give the Alliance the means to replace Labour as a non-socialist opposition to the Conservatives.

The Alliance team will now attempt to build on the Barbican rally with a local government conference, a youth rally, and effective performances in the Truro and Greenwich by-elections. But, while the activists clearly left in good heart, tensions still remain.

Some speakers wanted to go all out for an election win. Others, such as Dr Owen, were aiming at the more realistic target of a share in a coalition government. Some would clearly still love to be knee deep in policy committees, while Joe Grimond warned them that it was time to get out and demonstrate what kind of animal the Alliance is.

And while Mr Steel was emphasizing "our unity of purpose is complete and indivisible" with a clear eye on merger after the election, Dr Owen remains a sceptic on that subject.

Both big parties under attack

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, vigorously attacked both main parties in his speech to the Barbican rally. He described Labour as losers and the Conservatives as being without conscience or compassion.

To prolonged applause, he warned both not to think that they could divide the Alliance partners "before, during or after the election".

The coming election would be deeply negative, he said, with fear of Thatcherism and distrust of Labour sweeping the country in two confused tides.

"Our role is to provide a positive focus for the future, a beacon of hope to penetrate the gloom and confusion."

A Labour majority was impossible. Support for the party on the ground was "soft" and they had been damaged by "municipal megalomania". More to the point, voters - and the Shadow Cabinet knew that Labour could not win. "Labour are losers."

There must be a progressive alternative to Thatcherism. The ideologies of Thatcherism and socialism must be driven out and the people of this country must be enabled to take power for themselves.

Emphasizing the problems of unemployment and how Britain was becoming ever more divided, Mr Steel said: "The shot in the arm that Mrs Thatcher promised Britain has turned out to be a shot through the heart."

There was a retreat from kindness and tolerance, a new sense of public unfairness. State power grew while protection against it shrank.

Tory plans were for the short term - income tax cuts to buy the election and fiddling employment figures to take people off the dole queue for little more than the duration of the election period.

Year in, year out the City lavished hundreds of thousands of pounds on the Tories. "But how can it possibly be in the interests of democracy and good government that the party which forms an administration is dependent for its election on the handouts of those it is supposed to regulate?"

Just as Labour's relationship with its trade union paymasters has persistently corrupted its legislative programme, so the Tories are bound to be less than wholehearted in cleaning up the City.

Until the present scandals had been cleared up and a proper regulatory framework had been agreed, Mrs Thatcher should not accept donations from the City.

How far were they from a just society when the Government could spend £30 million advertising the sale of an asset belonging to everyone so that a quick killing could be made by a lucky few while that government could not find £20 million for dialysis machines to save lives and relieve pain?

After attacking the Government's defence and global famine policies, Mr Steel commented: "The qualities which make out the Thatcher Government - arrogance, stubbornness, lack of understanding, greed and prejudice - are all illiberal. The starting point of our radical programme is a deep revulsion from these values and a burning commitment to change them."

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The Alliance rally in London on Saturday turned out to be rather more significant than I had expected. The test was how far it could undo the damage inflicted by the defence fiasco at the Liberal Conference in September.

That episode had anything been even more disastrous for the Alliance than was evident at the time. Not only did it reveal disunity on a critical issue of policy, it led many people to conclude that the Alliance does not consist of serious politicians worthy of respect. It also had a shattering effect on internal morale.

Enthusiasm has been ebbing away in the constituencies. So could this rally restore unity, revive morale and recapture respect? An agreement on defence had already been patched together, so removing the specific cause of all the trouble.

Urge to unity is evident

It is not altogether satisfactory and it certainly does not remove the underlying differences on nuclear defence policy. But I expect that it will suffice for electoral purposes.

What was striking on Saturday was the urge to unity on the floor. The format of the rally was hardly one to encourage dissent. There was no debate, just a succession of set speeches from a lighted rostrum by the leaders and the election spokesmen. But even the best stage management can be thwarted if the spirit is not there.

On Saturday there was the will to unity. This is not always quite the same as actually being united. Differences do remain within the Alliance, some of them substantial.

But its members have been badly frightened by the public response to the defence split. Most of them appreciate the political necessity to stick together.

Their morale was raised at the rally partly by the general evidence of this determination and partly by a number of effective speeches. Mr David Steel gave a sparkling display of political knockabout, well suited to the occasion. The severity of his attack on the modern Conservative Party as lacking conscience and compassion did not sound, though, like the ideal preparation for negotiations in a hung parliament.

The remarkable reception for Mr Roy Jenkins both before and after his speech showed that he retains the affection and respect of Alliance members.

By contrast Dr David Owen received no more than courteous applause. This was the second time I had heard him in the week, and there were signs that he has become rather tired of these days. It would hardly be surprising after his almost single-handed efforts to keep the Alliance in the forefront of public debate in the first two years of this Parliament.

Will rally restore public respect?

But these contrasting receptions may well have been indicating something of more enduring political significance - that while Dr Owen is the David who has been making more impact on the public, Mr Steel is the one who is more generally acceptable within the Alliance.

But if Saturday's rally served the purpose of raising Alliance morale, will it also have restored public respect? It should have helped, but it will take more than one successful event like this to wipe out the memory of Eastbourne.

The state of Alliance morale may, however, be of unusual importance in the next election. Opinion polls suggest a greater readiness in principle to vote tactically. There is, likely, I believe, to be more tactical voting than in previous general elections, though nothing like so much as at by-elections. But just how much there is may well depend on the vigour and skill of the Alliance campaign in particular constituencies.

The Alliance should stand a good chance of doing better than its current strength in the opinion polls suggests. But it will have to overcome the criticism in a powerful attack from Sir Geoffrey Howe a week ago that "No one voting SDP-Liberal can really know what sort of government he is voting for". If the Alliance is to make the breakthrough it seeks it must garner more than protest votes.

BBC urged to take legal action

POLICE RAIDS

The BBC was urged by Dr David Owen to take court action over the police "ransacking" of its Scottish office and the removal of documents concerned with the Secret Society programmes, during the leader's address to the SDP Council in Bloomsbury yesterday.

"They should use the courts to the fullest extent possible to recover material that should never have been taken away in the first place and to challenge the whole concept lying behind these actions", he said.

"The integrity and independence of the Board of Governors is crucial to us all", he continued. "The board should not be seen, or even thought, to bend the knee to this or any other government. They must use the full resources of a public corporation to challenge the action which has led to this sordid and trivial affair."

Trivial in that the Government, having known for months that these films were being made, should wait and take action in this way and in this regard.

"Is there so little trust between the new management of the BBC, the new chairman and the relatively new vice-chairman, that if the Government was so concerned it could not have asked the BBC to conduct its own arrangements in Scotland or elsewhere in relation to this programme?"

In the past the Government and the Labour Party had regarded the Alliance's talk of a Bill of Rights, freedom of information and the challenge to civil liberties, as dry, academic stuff.

"I do not believe those people who were in the BBC last night finding their offices ransacked will think that civil liberties and a Bill of Rights, is dry, and academic stuff", he said.

The time had come to defend the BBC. Whatever its failings, the BBC remained one of our country's most precious assets. What was particularly troubling about the raid on the BBC Scottish office was that it had taken three warrants. The first had been successfully resisted, the second had gone to the wrong address and the third, for some reason not yet clear, had not been challenged by the BBC.

That had resulted in three vast loads of material being taken away after a 28-hour search. The nation was entitled to ask about the competence of those charged with guarding its secrets.

Anglo-Irish agreement wins support

The Alliance strongly supports the Anglo-Irish agreement and will not countenance its dismantling in any post-election deal. Mr David Allen MP, Alliance spokesman on Northern Ireland, told the rally.

"The aim of the Alliance would be to decentralize the structure of government, in establishing an elected Scottish Parliament, Welsh Senedd and elected regional assemblies throughout England. Sir Russell Shaw MP, Alliance spokesman on Scotland, said.

The Alliance would cancel ridit but maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent with however modernization was necessary. Mr John Cartwright MP (SDP), Alliance defence spokesman, said in the session Europe and the world.

Time has come for new spirit

The time had come for a new spirit to enliven Britain's national life, Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, said in his keynote speech to the Barbican rally.

It was a spirit that would tap the generosity, spark the enthusiasm, stimulate the fairness and promote the openness of the British people.

Millions of people wanted a true democracy which could enable them to contribute to society, and that was the task of the Alliance.

The Alliance's electoral success - and he was confident they would be shaping and forming the Government of the country after the next election - would not come easily.

They would have to fight with determination and conviction and present a constructive programme. They must invest in the future, in skills, in brains, in industry and in democracy, and these principles must be demonstrated to the people.

"Conviction and hope inspire our Alliance and it runs the golden thread through our policies and our attitudes. But hope is not built on fear. Fear constricts, confines, damages the liveliness of our country."

Unemployment was not an international disease, but a Tory disease. Mr Ian Wigglesworth MP (SDP), Alliance spokesman on trade and industry, said during the Barbican session on the economy and industry.

The Alliance did not believe that unemployment was necessary. It must not go on. They heard much propaganda from ministers about unemployment, but there were 1,500,000 fewer jobs now than when the Tory Party came to office (cries of "Shame").

Ministers suffered from dreadful bouts of selective amnesia. In true Kremlin style, the years from 1979 to 1981 had been almost wiped out of existence.

One of the 12 highest unemployment regions in the EEC was in the United Kingdom: Merseyside, Strathclyde, Northern Ireland, Tyne and Wear, and Cleveland. The only

parallels were in Sicily and Sardinia, Ireland, southern Italy and Corsica.

It was nonsense for ministers to say that Britain's future lay with the service industries when goods were much more tradable in the world than services, and a large proportion of services such as banking and insurance depended on the trade in goods for their survival.

The service industries would have to increase exports almost fivefold to replace the contribution at present made by manufacturing industry. That was inconceivable.

He called for a collaborative industrial strategy based on four principles: to give it top priority, to make it a national objective, to formulate and implement it on the basis of

partnership between different interests; the strategy must be long term and not involve detailed bureaucratic plans for every part of industry; it would work with the grain of the market and not against it, seeking to rectify market deficiencies while easing the social cost of withdrawal from declining industries.

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Pardoe speech leads to Alliance embarrassment

By Our Political Editor

An attempt by the chairman of the SDP/Liberal Alliance's election campaign committee, Mr John Pardoe, to link the two parties with Mrs Thatcher in her proclaimed mission to eradicate socialism in Britain has led to embarrassed ructions within the Alliance and a public rebuke to Mr Pardoe by the SDP leader, Dr David Owen.

Mr Pardoe, the former Liberal MP for Cornwall N, who fought Mr David Steel for the party leadership 11 years ago, astonished the audience when he wound up the Alliance's Barbican rally on Saturday with a plea to industry and the City to provide the Alliance with the funds to first to supplant Labour as the main Opposition to the Conservatives and then to make sure that no Labour government could ever again be elected.

Talking of Mrs Thatcher, Mr Pardoe told the rally: "There is one thing on which she and British industry and the City and we are all agreed: we want to bury socialism."

Appealing for them to come forward with funds, he said that industry and the City should remember that it was impossible for a Conservative government to govern for ever.

Saying that the Alliance, like industry, believed in enterprise and the market, Mr Pardoe said: "There are only two ways to ensure that there is never again a socialist government. First to replace the socialist opposition with a non-socialist opposition - and that's us. Then elect an Alliance government which will change the voting system so that no socialist government can ever again be elected."

There had been protests against Mr Pardoe's remarks in both Alliance parties and at the SDP's Council meeting in Bloomsbury yesterday, Dr Owen said: "If the word socialism is to become a term

of abuse it must be prefaced with state socialism".

Saying that he was "very fond" of Mr Pardoe, Dr Owen warned his party that similar language was used by other Liberals and said that both halves of the Alliance must respect the fact that there were in their ranks people who had been members of other political parties. Of the SDP, 22 per cent had come from the Labour Party.

Mr Pardoe's clanger, as leading figures in the SDP were privately calling it yesterday, highlights the Alliance's failure to win significant funds from industry and business.

The Alliance hopes to fight the next election with about £2.75 million in funds, of which the SDP would have about £1 million, the Liberals a little more and the separate Alliance fund between £500,000 and £750,000. Very little of the money has been raised yet and virtually none of it from the City.

Popular duo cheer audience

Mr Cyril Smith (right) was one of the Liberal stalwarts who filled the role of warm-up speakers to the rally. Mr Smith MP delighted the audience by referring to Sir Geoffrey Howe as the great dynamo of British politics.

He took the Foreign Secretary to task for saying that the Alliance meant political paralysis. "Well, the Alliance would paralyse the outmoded, outdated, ineffective rottenness of the two-party system which led to inevitable confrontation, graft, greed and corruption."

Lord Grimond, former party leader, said that the Alliance had as its assets the best leadership in politics today, a formidable fighting force and the best new policies. There were more than enough policies and what the leaders had to do was to make the essential ones and get them across to the people.

Whatever that Greek role exactly was, I do not think that the Greeks would have long sustained it had they squeezed their number of students, closed down the philosophy department at the University of Athens and reduced the number of skilled apprentices in Athens by a half" (applause).

Those trends must be reversed. It would be an attainable objective to become the best educated and best trained nation in the world within a generation, but it would require vision, determination and a consistency of policy over several parliaments.

It was that length of perspective and steadfastness of purpose to which British institutions in so many aspects, from the voting system to the financing of industry, were now so inimical.

"It is that unhappy combination of febrile, superficial change and underlying rigidity which the Alliance was formed to break."

"Can we still do it? I think we can."

There could be no doubt that a new constructive lead was required. The present Chancellor's economic policy had failed. His monetary policy was in total confusion. When one considered the price paid by industry, it was as though Higgs, at the end of the Battle of the Somme, had let it be known he had never been much in favour of a Western front strategy anyway.

The Alliance economic policy was urgent because the problems facing the country were urgent. Perhaps most important were measures to raise the level of education and training. Britain would not succeed without the range of skills and breadth of training which the population of other countries commanded.

"It was decades ago that Harold Macmillan saw a British race as being that of the cultivated Greeks to the Americans' Romans. It is hardly a role which has been underplayed by his most recent successor (laughter).

Mr William Rodgers (SDP), Alliance spokesman on energy, speaking to the Barbican rally on the theme "A place for people to live", quoted Sir Frank Layfield as saying in his report on Sizewell B that it would be "sufficiently safe to be tolerable."

"We say that is not enough." Sir Frank had also referred to the need for the economic benefits to be sufficient "to justify the risks involved."

"We say they are not. Our view remains the same. Say no to Sizewell," he said to applause.

Mr Geraint Howells MP (L), Alliance spokesman for Wales, said it was important to get policies right to achieve a balance between the needs of agriculture and conservation.

Rodgers says no to Sizewell

ENVIRONMENT

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150-160

Timeshare marketing: 1

Guidelines aim to combat hard-sell pressure on buyers

A couple who were persuaded to attend a timeshare promotion by attractive advertising plus the inducement of a valuable gift, recently wrote to *The Times* admitting that even though they thought themselves reasonably intelligent and cautious they had been "utterly conned and duped".

They had spent several hours at a "very high-pressure sales afternoon", had refused to sign anything and had ended up with a silver-plated serving dish of "doubtful quality".

Their letter is typical of people who have been subjected to the hard sell which has beset timeshare since its launch in Britain a decade ago, and its enormous expansion in Europe, particularly Spain and Portugal. The complaints are rarely about the resorts. They are mostly about the selling techniques and, to a lesser extent, about the level of maintenance charges.

The Department of Industry and Trade's leaflet *Your Place in the Sun or is it?* attempts to ensure that the buyer does not fall for any of the tricks of the trade and knows exactly what he is buying.

There are now 2,000 resorts worldwide, with more than 40 in the United Kingdom, catering for more than 1.5 million owners of whom about 80,000 are British. The industry expects the number of British owners to rise to around 110,000 by the end of

Last week the Government issued advice to potential buyers of timeshare property on the perils they may encounter and the pitfalls to avoid. In the first of two articles, Christopher Warren, Property Correspondent, explains the background to this growing leisure industry and why the advice became necessary.

year and believes that it is still only scratching the surface of the potential market.

Prices for timeshare property range from £1,500 to £15,000 a week depending on the season and size, and more than 1,800 resorts are affiliated to the two main international exchange companies, RCI and Interval International, which enable owners to swap their weeks for the equivalent at any other resort.

The ownership of a timeshare is a luxury, nobody needs it, and therefore it has to be "sold". Hence it has inevitably become subject to the unacceptable sales techniques bordering on harassment, which has afflicted the sale of other products such as insurance and double glazing.

No longer is timeshare sold as an investment in the same way as a house. Rather it is seen as a long-term investment in annual holidays, providing a cushion against rising prices which a yearly package holiday does not, and as an equivalent to staying in a top-class hotel.

The Department of Trade and Industry's leaflet, issued in response to complaints of persistent high-pressure selling and drawn up in consulta-

tion with timeshare developers, warns the potential purchaser not to sign anything until absolutely certain what is involved and to insist on a "cooling off" period during which he can withdraw from the contract.

To the considerable satisfaction of the industry, Mr Michael Howard, Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said when launching the leaflet: "There is nothing at all wrong with the idea of timesharing itself. It is fine if you are sure that it is what you want, that it gives you value for money and that any contract linked to it is both fair and soundly based."

The leaflet concentrates on countering the hard-sell but it also emphasizes the need to find out about maintenance charges, check that there is an owners' association and that it is affiliated to a reputable exchange organization.

Above all, perhaps: "Be especially careful if you are approached while on holiday. Don't get carried away with the exciting holiday atmosphere and don't sign something which you wouldn't be happy signing at home."

Tomorrow: Buyer protection



Mr Michael Burniston, from King's Lynn, Norfolk, with his daughter Bryony, aged nine, in London yesterday helping to launch the Royal Life Saving Society's new national programme to teach water safety, rescue and resuscitation and prevent some of Britain's annual 600 deaths by drowning. Mr Burniston was saved by his daughter last year when she dived down five times and pulled him to safety after he failed to surface at their local swimming baths (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

More centres needed to hold refugees

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

The Home Office may be forced to use more detention centres to cater for the increasing number of refugees coming into Britain and seeking political asylum.

A large influx of people claiming to be refugees from Sri Lanka and Iran has caused enormous pressure on the available detention accom-

modation in other detention centres while new methods were considered to stop refugees from Sri Lanka and Iran, arriving with false documents from third countries.

While the refugee problem is causing the Home Office anxiety, ministers are satisfied that the steps taken last October to introduce strict visa requirements for people from the Indian sub-continent, are working well.

At present, while the Home Office examines each case, the detained refugees are being

held in five centres: at Harmondsworth, outside Heathrow; Queen's Building at the airport, Latchmere House, near Richmond, Surrey; Eristoke, Wiltshire; and at Gatwick airport.

Often, with the available places taken, the immigration authorities have had to send refugees to police cells.

Home Office officials said that one option facing ministers was to find more accom-

modation in other detention centres while new methods were considered to stop refugees from Sri Lanka and Iran, arriving with false documents from third countries.

While the refugee problem is causing the Home Office anxiety, ministers are satisfied that the steps taken last October to introduce strict visa requirements for people from the Indian sub-continent, are working well.

At present, while the Home Office examines each case, the detained refugees are being

'Warm weather' payout attacked

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Treasury is understood to have accused the Department of Health and Social Security of handing out "warm weather payments" after the department paid an extra £7.5 million in cold weather payments when temperatures started to rise.

In the first week that the Government decided to pay £5 to those eligible, average temperatures in only 15 weather stations in the country failed to drop below -1.5C, the then trigger point for payments.

But in the second week, January 19 to 26, when payments were also automatically awarded, no stations fell under freezing point, let alone below -1.5C.

Latest figures from the 64 DHSS weather stations show that some areas of the country basked in temperatures averaging 6C or 7C, while most

stations reported average temperatures of between 2.5C and 5C.

The warmest spot was Stornoway, where temperatures rose to 7.3C.

In response to the Treasury complaint Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security, has claimed that the decision to award a second blanket payment was based on weather predictions from the Meteorological Office.

In the event, the payments could be justified, he said, because extreme conditions the previous week may have increased fuel bills significantly.

During this winter's coldest week, from January 12 to 19, temperatures plummeted in some districts to below -4C.

The coldest spot in the country was Okehampton, where the average weekly temperature fell to -5.2C.

Enterprise rewarded by Prince

By Charles Knevitt, Architecture Correspondent

The Prince of Wales will again be presenting awards and commendations this year in the Community Enterprise Scheme sponsored by *The Times* and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The scheme, of which the Prince is patron, received 137 entries. The assessors met for the first time on Saturday and a shortlist will be announced at the end of this month. The presentation ceremony will be held at the RIBA on July 3.

Prizes worth £10,000 are being donated by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and there will be a special prize in the housing category to mark the 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

The Charles Douglas-Horne award, in memory of the late editor of *The Times*, will be awarded at the discretion of the judges to the most outstanding project.

The award is for the most imaginative, viable and need-f fulfilling environmental project demonstrating community enterprise and initiative. The four categories are community centres, housing, workshops and general environmental improvement schemes.

Mr Rod Hackney, chairman of the scheme and president-elect of the RIBA, said: "I am very pleased with the number and quality of entries.

Among the entries are the Eldonian Housing Co-operative Village on the former Tate and Lyle site in Liverpool; the Paddington Farm Trust; low-cost workshops in Margate, Kent and a cycle and walkway along a former railway line in Avon.

Campaign to highlight burglary precautions

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A big crime prevention campaign aimed at persuading householders to take simple but effective precautions against burglary is to be launched by the Home Office this month.

The key message will be that most burglaries are the work of opportunist thieves, often teenagers, and they can be thwarted cheaply. Locks, property marking and neighbourhood watch schemes can work against the burglar. Better security for cars will also be highlighted.

Road safety

Pelicans to gain more time

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The Government is introducing new measures to reduce accidents on pelican crossings.

Official statistics show that in 1983 there were 2,182 casualties on the crossings, including 47 deaths and 573 serious injuries. Organizations such as the Pedestrians' Association have felt that the green light did not give enough time for elderly and other slow-moving people to cross.

Department of Transport regulations will, from February 18, allow local authorities to extend the time traffic is halted by a few seconds. Zig-zag markings like those at zebra crossings will be applied on either side of pelicans prohibiting parking and overtaking.

Major roadworks this week: London and the South East.

A40(M) Marylebone flyover: Closed for repair work, diversions operating. M11 London: Work at Redbridge roundabout. M2 Kent: Roundabout between junctions 5 and 7 (A249 and A2 turn-off). M276 Hampshire: Flyover construction between junction with M27 and Rudmore roundabout, Portsmouth.



Midlands

M5 Hereford and Worcester: One lane open southbound and two northbound between junctions 5 and 6, southbound entry slip at junction 5 and southbound exit slip at junction 6 closed. M5 West Midlands: Lane restrictions and some overnight carriageway closures between junctions 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove/M50 South Wales). A1 Nottinghamshire: Lane restrictions north of Newark at Markham Moor.

North

M62 Greater Manchester: Lane closures between junctions 21 and 22. M61 Bowdon Bridge: Construction work at M6 interchange, lane closures in both directions. M63 Greater Manchester: Link road from A34 to M63 southbound single lane only. M63 Bowdon Bridge: Greater Manchester: Major widening sch-

Wales and the West

M4 South Wales: Signing and cutting work between junctions 24 and 29 (Newport/Cardiff). M5 Somerset: Roadworks and lane closures between junctions 25 and 26.

Scotland

M8 Glasgow: Construction work between junctions 15 and 17 (city centre and Dumbarton). M73 Strathclyde: Lane closures between junctions 2 and 3 north of M8. M8: Junctions 25 and 26 near Clyde tunnel two lanes closed westbound, no access westbound from Clyde at junction 25. M74 Junction 6, northbound lane closed; junctions 7 and 8 southbound carriageway closed, contraflow.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch.

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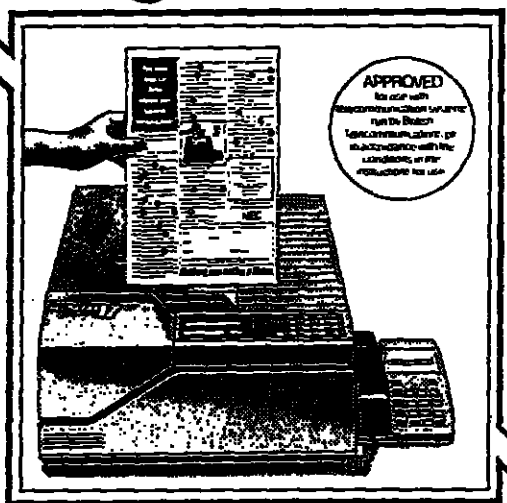
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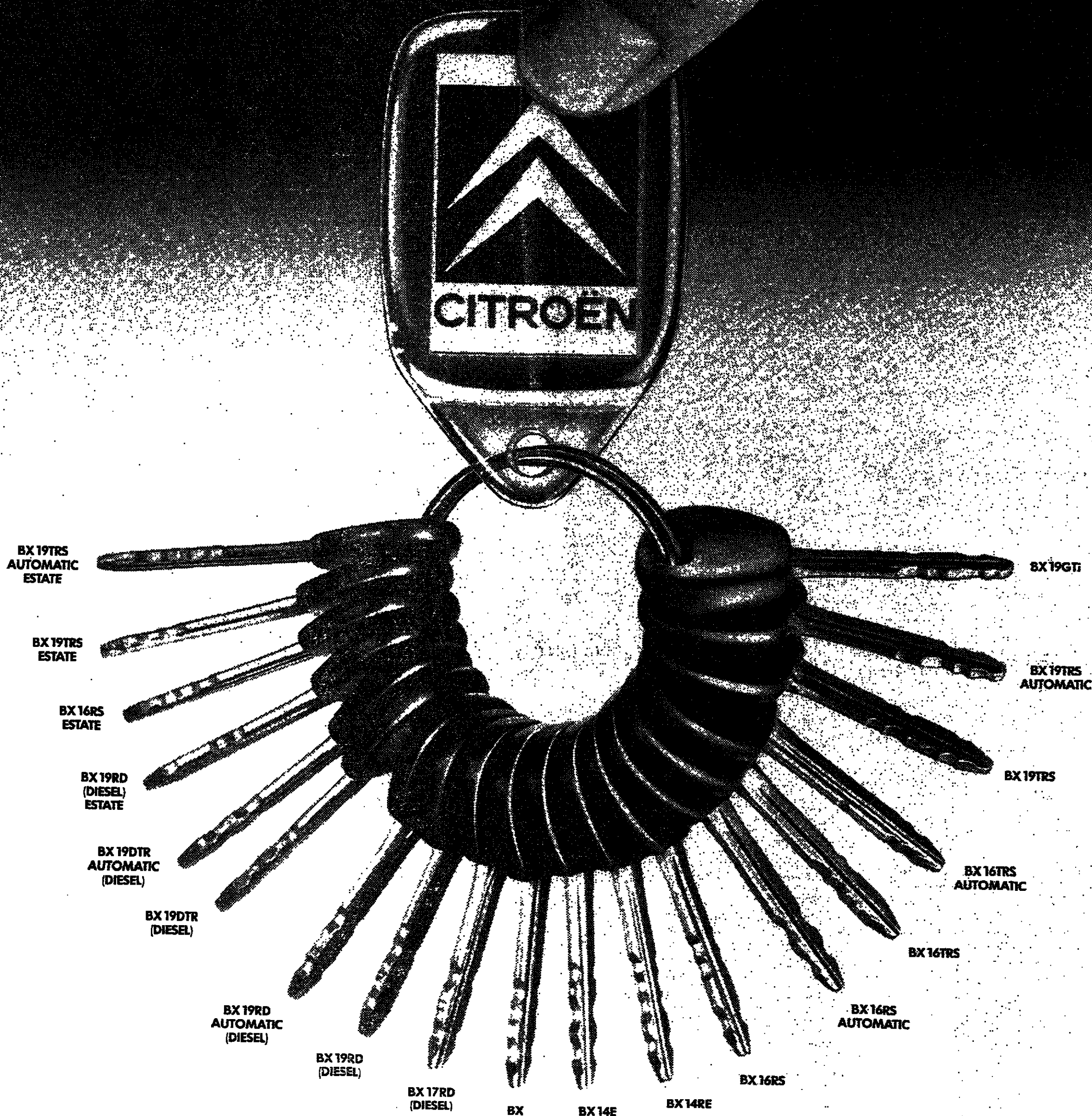
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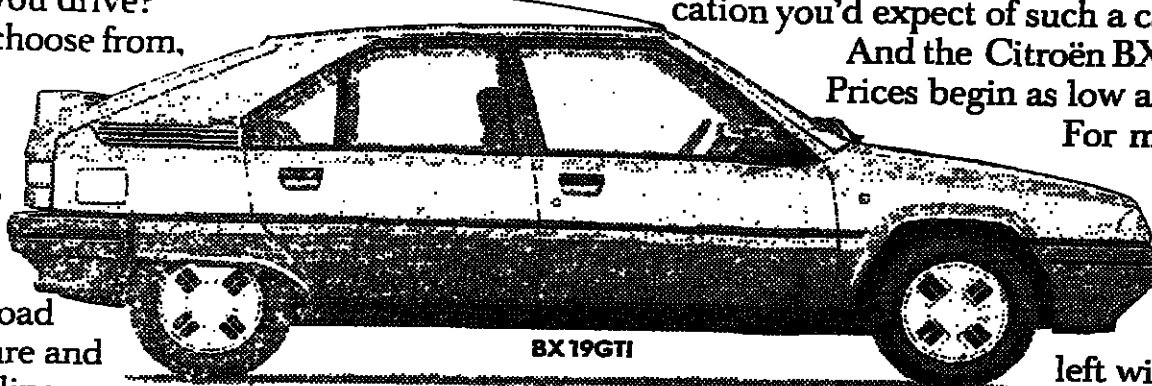
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مركز الاموال

WORLD SUMMARY

Car bomb kills four in Kabul

Kabul (Reuters) - A powerful car bomb blew up beside the Indian Embassy in central Kabul yesterday, killing four people including two children, the official Kabul radio reported last night. The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said the Afghan Communist Party leader, Dr Najib, later visited the Embassy.

Dr Najib blamed the incident on what he called enemies of Afghanistan and India who wanted to damage relations between the two countries. He said the attack came at a time when his government's national reconciliation policy was succeeding and hopes were being pinned on the next round of United Nations-sponsored peace talks in Geneva later this month.

The explosion sent up a huge cloud of smoke and dust that was visible for miles around. Witnesses said the blast occurred in the district of Shahr Naw, in an area which includes the Interior Ministry, a security police office, an Indian consular office and residences of the US and Indonesian charges d'affaires.

According to diplomats, there have been a series of minor explosions in the last few weeks since the Government proclaimed a policy of national reconciliation with the guerrillas and began a unilateral ceasefire. Police road blocks, which had disappeared at the time of the January 15 ceasefire, have started to reappear in the last few days.

Thousands in protest

Madrid - More than 35,000 people turned out yesterday in Saragossa, north-eastern Spain, to join a silent protest march through the city against Friday's car bomb attack, blamed on Eta, which killed two people and injured 40 others (Richard Wigg writes).

Called by the city corporation, it was one of the biggest demonstrations ever seen in the city.

A large banner reading "Saragossa for peace and against terrorism", was carried by the two teenage children of the army major fatally injured in the attack on a bus carrying service personnel.

A group of extreme right-wingers tried to disrupt the marchers, charging in shouting, "Machine guns against Eta" and "Long live democracy".

Meanwhile in Melilla, one of Spain's enclaves in North Africa, police arrested 27 Muslims after they had gone on an overnight rampage protesting against the self-imposed exile in Morocco of one of their leaders.

Sinking on Rhine

Bonn - A ship with a cargo of more than 500 tons of nitrogenous fertiliser sank in the Rhine near Düsseldorf early yesterday after being rammed by a tanker while at anchor.

One of the ship's crew is missing, believed drowned, and divers yesterday were searching for his body. A local Rhine pollution alarm was issued immediately after the sinking, but river police said later the fertiliser was not a danger.

Surgery for Barbie

Paris - Klaus Barbie, the former SS officer known as "the Butcher of Lyons", is expected to undergo surgery for urinary problems, according to a statement yesterday by his lawyer (Susan MacDonald writes).

It is exactly four years since Barbie was extradited from Bolivia and imprisoned in Lyons. His long-awaited trial has been postponed several times for legal reasons.

Hoskins strikes gold

Beverly Hills (AP) - The British actor Bob Hoskins has won a Golden Globe award for his portrayal of a small-time underworld operator in the film *Monsieur Louis*, while Robert Bolt has won the screenplay award for *The Mission*.

Hannah and her Sisters, Woody Allen's comedy of manners in Manhattan, was awarded a Golden Globe as the best comedy or musical of 1986, while the Vietnam film *Platoon* was named the year's best drama.

The 44th annual award session, organized by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, was held on Saturday night. Anthony Quinn, who appeared in more than 200 films over 50 years, won the Cecil B. DeMille award for career achievement.

Angela Lansbury, left, and Edward Woodward won the awards for best actress and best actor in a television series.

Marlee Matlin won the best actress award for her role as a troubled deaf woman in *Children of a Lesser God*. Miss Matlin, whose hearing is impaired, accepted her award at the Beverly Hilton Hotel ballroom with a speech in sign language interpreted by a friend.

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Deal on hostages ruled out by Israel

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Israel has not been asked to free 400 Lebanese prisoners held in its prisons in exchange for four hostages held by Shia extremists in Lebanon, and would probably turn down any such request if it were made.

This was spelled out by the Israeli Government spokesman, Mr Avi Pazner, after yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting. The subject was not raised in Cabinet, he said. Such a request would run counter to Israel's current policy.

Israel has traditionally refused to trade prisoners for hostages, and a Government decision in 1985 to free 1,100 Palestinian prisoners for four Israeli soldiers captured by the Palestine Liberation Organization during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon was strongly criticized and is now generally conceded to have been a mistake.

Mr Pazner also strongly rejected last Friday's allegations by the US Senate intelligence committee that Israel had played a central role in the transfer of funds from Iranian arms sales to the Contras in Nicaragua.

"Israel again stresses that it did not know of, and was not in any way involved in, the transfer of funds to the Contras," he said. "Money from the Iranian transaction was transferred by the Iranian representatives directly to an account run by the Americans, and no money paid by the Israelis passed through or remained in the hands of Israel or its representatives."

"There is no truth to the claim that Israel had proposed to the US that it transfer weapons to the Contras."

"Israel stresses once again," Mr Pazner concluded, "that concerning the Iranian affair, it acted in full co-operation and co-ordination with the United States, in keeping with the strong bonds of friendship between the two countries."

Israel has been anxious to allay any suspicion that it might have aided the White House to circumvent Congress's ban on aid to the Contras.

Chief of Staff: The man who led Israel's 1976 Entebbe rescue operation, Major-General Dan Shomron, aged 49, was named yesterday as the next chief of the Israel Defence Forces General Staff. He will replace Lieutenant-General Moshe Levy.

"We set a non-extendable, one-week deadline for the exchange to take place, after which keeping the four Americans alive will not be of use to us."

Last week the group warned that all hostages would die if the United States attacked Lebanon.

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"The American threats have so far remained pure talk and we hope the threat of a military operation is serious this time so that the American nose can once more be rubbed in the mud of Lebanon," the statement said.

Washington should make it clear to kidnappers that they must pay for taking Americans hostage. "If we can figure out how to raise the cost to the terrorists, we will," he said.

Awaiting the next crop of martyrs

Graves' grim harvest fuses grief and pride as Gulf war grinds on

In the little cemetery of the Imam Zadeh Ali Akbar on the cold slopes of the Alborz mountains at Chasr, they have been preparing for the next Iranian offensive. The bulldozers have dug deep into the old, frozen graveyard and there is now fresh ground - two football pitches in length - for the next crop of martyrs.

The thin, dark-faced cemetery keeper is quite blunt about it. "Every time there is a new Kermela offensive, the martyrs arrive within days," he says. "We have 300 already over there and 12 more last week. The graves of ordinary people - we destroy after 30 years - there is nothing left - but our martyrs are different. They will be here for a thousand years and more."

His statistics tell a far more terrible story than at first appears. For Chasr - distinguished by its ancient, crumbling shrine - merely contains the war dead of one small suburb of north Tehran. Spread across the country, those 312 bodies become half a million, perhaps far more. In the big Beheshti Zaher cemetery outside the city, they are buried in the tens of thousands.

They are nearly all young and they are honoured, publicly at least, with that mixture of grief and spiritual satisfaction so peculiar to Shia Islam. Take Ali Nasser Kiarat, for example. He was killed at the battle of the Majnoon Island last year, his photograph, pinned inside a glass-framed steel box above his remains, shows him to have been a slim, good-looking youth, with a brush moustache. His grave stone contains a message to his father, Yusef, and to his mother.

"Don't cry mother, because I am happy," the stone slab announces. "I am not dead. I remember all that you have done for me. You gave me milk and you wanted me to sacrifice my life for religion. Dear Father, don't cry and don't beat yourself because you will be proud when you realize I am a martyr..." There is another photograph of Ali Nasser in the box above

his grave, a snapshot of the soldier with his arms around his comrades standing in a patch of mud.

Behind his grave stone, some middle-aged men are gathered beside a patch of dark earth covered in fresh carapans and the red, white and green flag of Iran. Tears are coursing down the unshaved cheeks of one of the men and he is rocking backwards and forwards, shaking slightly. A carpet has been spread beside the new grave.

A group of women in black chadors are bringing trays of oranges, lemons and toffee, placing them on the carpet.

6 The snapshots show the young men who die in every war, laughing in gardens, standing with parents, perched on the mountain tops of Kurdistan, holding field binoculars

and one of the women, holding her chador around her face with her teeth, is crying. All who mourn with them will eat the fruit and think of Chasr's newest Martyr, and - if they feel the emotions inscribed upon the brown stones around them - they will express delight on the family's behalf.

For several of the inscriptions express that very sentiment. Even the flowers laid on the grave of a young student-soldier called Zaman near the cemetery keeper's hut carries such a declaration. "We congratulate you upon your martyrdom," says the attached paper, signed by "students and staff of the Tehran University of Sciences". But could there be such joy amid the war graves of Chasr?

Those cruel, steel boxes contain fresh flowers and plastic doves and real, steel-tipped bullets but the snapshots show the young men who die in every war, laughing in gardens, standing with parents outside front doors, perched on the mountain tops of

Kurdistan, holding field binoculars. Lurymen would have understood the waste of Sergeant Akhazadeh who died, aged 25, five years ago in Khorramshahr; of Mehdi Balouch - a hand grenade carved on his grave stone - who was 23 when he was killed in Zabedan; of Mehrrodi Nassiri, aged 25, who was shot at Mehran seven months ago. A 24-year-old who died outside Basra last month was pictured with his two little girls - one with her hair in a bow - curled up in his arms before he went to the front.

Was there no sense of waste? A man in his forties, bearded, unsmiling, shook his head. What of those first lines by the English war poet Wilfred Owen who asked what passing bells there were for those who died as cattle?

"I only met one man who spoke like that," the Iranian said. "He was an old man in hospital. He had his legs and one arm blown off by a bomb near Ahwaz. He had lost an eye. The bomb had killed his wife and children, his sisters and his brothers."

Outside the chilly, intimate hulk cemetery, there stood a short, smiling bookseller named Mahmoud. Inside, was a young Revolutionary Guard who had that day returned from the southern front. His name was Ali Khani. What did his parents feel when he was away? "I have three brothers as well as me at the front," he replied. "My mother and father know that I am a martyr. I will be still alive." But did his parents not wish him luck - not tell him to "take care" when he left for the war?

"No," he said, a slight smile emerging at such Western sentiment. "They believe it is God's wish if I die." But would his parents not cry if he was killed? He thought about this for a long time. "Yes, he would," he said at last. "And so did the Prophet Mohamed, peace be upon him, when his baby son Ibrahim died. But this is not a sign of weakness or lack of faith. It is a human thing."

Threat to kill four if swap is denied

From Juan Carlos Guncio Beirut

The kidnappers of three Americans and one Indian have threatened to kill their hostages unless Israel releases 400 Palestinian prisoners this week.

A statement signed by the extremist "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine" said the deadline was not negotiable and that if its demands were not met they would begin to "throw corpses into garbage cans".

The group is holding Mr Alan Stein, Mr Robert Pollard, Mr Jesse Turner and Mr Mitleshwar Singh, all teachers working at Beirut University College.

They were seized nine days ago by gunmen posing as policemen in the boldest kidnapping operation of foreigners in the Muslim sector of the Lebanese capital. Mr Singh is an Indian-born holder of a US permanent residence permit.

The group had not been heard of until the multiple kidnapping, in Tunis, a spokesman for Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, said there were no links between the abductors and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The statement was delivered to a Western news agency and the independent *An Nahar* newspaper shortly before midnight on Saturday. It was accompanied by two polaroid photographs showing a smiling Mr Stein and Mr Turner, apparently in good health.

"The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine announces that it will free the four American hostages in exchange for the release of 400 Holy War strugglers held in Zionist Nazi jails in Palestine," it said.

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From Robert Fisk, Tehran

his grave, a snapshot of the soldier with his arms around his comrades standing in a patch of mud.

Behind his grave stone, some middle-aged men are gathered beside a patch of dark earth covered in fresh carapans and the red, white and green flag of Iran. Tears are coursing down the unshaved cheeks of one of the men and he is rocking backwards and forwards, shaking slightly. A carpet has been spread beside the new grave.

A group of women in black chadors are bringing trays of oranges, lemons and toffee, placing them on the carpet.

6 The snapshots show the young men who die in every war, laughing in gardens, standing with parents, perched on the mountain tops of Kurdistan, holding field binoculars

and one of the women, holding her chador around her face with her teeth, is crying. All who mourn with them will eat the fruit and think of Chasr's newest Martyr, and - if they feel the emotions inscribed upon the brown stones around them - they will express delight on the family's behalf.

For several of the inscriptions express that very sentiment. Even the flowers laid on the grave of a young student-soldier called Zaman near the cemetery keeper's hut carries such a declaration. "We congratulate you upon your martyrdom," says the attached paper, signed by "students and staff of the Tehran University of Sciences". But could there be such joy amid the war graves of Chasr?

Those cruel, steel boxes contain fresh flowers and plastic doves and real, steel-tipped bullets but the snapshots show the young men who die in every war, laughing in gardens, standing with parents outside front doors, perched on the mountain tops of

Kurdistan, holding field binoculars. Lurymen would have understood the waste of Sergeant Akhazadeh who died, aged 25, five years ago in Khorramshahr; of Mehdi Balouch - a hand grenade carved on his grave stone - who was 23 when he was killed in Zabedan; of Mehrrodi Nassiri, aged 25, who was shot at Mehran seven months ago. A 24-year-old who died outside Basra last month was pictured with his two little girls - one with her hair in a bow - curled up in his arms before he went to the front.

Was there no sense of waste? A man in his forties, bearded, unsmiling, shook his head. What of those first lines by the English war poet Wilfred Owen who asked what passing bells there were for those who died as cattle?

"I only met one man who spoke like that," the Iranian said. "He was an old man in hospital. He had his legs and one arm blown off by a bomb near Ahwaz. He had lost an eye. The bomb had killed his wife and children, his sisters and his brothers."

Outside the chilly, intimate hulk cemetery, there stood a short, smiling bookseller named Mahmoud. Inside, was a young Revolutionary Guard who had that day returned from the southern front. His name was Ali Khani. What did his parents feel when he was away? "I have three brothers as well as me at the front," he replied. "My mother and father know that I am a martyr. I will be still alive." But did his parents not wish him luck - not tell him to "take care" when he left for the war?

"No," he said, a slight smile emerging at such Western sentiment. "They believe it is God's wish if I die." But would his parents not cry if he was killed? He thought about this for a long time. "Yes, he would," he said at last. "And so did the Prophet Mohamed, peace be upon him, when his baby son Ibrahim died. But this is not a sign of weakness or lack of faith. It is a human thing."

Threat to kill four if swap is denied

From Juan Carlos Guncio Beirut

The kidnappers of three Americans and one Indian have threatened to kill their hostages unless Israel releases 400 Palestinian prisoners this week.

A statement signed by the extremist "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine" said the deadline was not negotiable and that if its demands were not met they would begin to "throw corpses into garbage cans".

The group is holding Mr Alan Stein, Mr Robert Pollard, Mr Jesse Turner and Mr Mitleshwar Singh, all teachers working at Beirut University College.

They were seized nine days ago by gunmen posing as policemen in the boldest kidnapping operation of foreigners in the Muslim sector of the Lebanese capital. Mr Singh is an Indian-born holder of a US permanent residence permit.

The group had not been heard of until the multiple kidnapping, in Tunis, a spokesman for Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, said there were no links between the abductors and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The statement was delivered to a Western news agency and the independent *An Nahar* newspaper shortly before midnight on Saturday. It was accompanied by two polaroid photographs showing a smiling Mr Stein and Mr Turner, apparently in good health.

"The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine announces that it will free the four American hostages in exchange for the release of 400 Holy War strugglers held in Zionist Nazi jails in Palestine," it said.

"We set a non-extendable, one-week deadline for the exchange to take place, after which keeping the four Americans alive will not be of use to us."

Last week the group warned that all hostages would die if the United States attacked Lebanon.

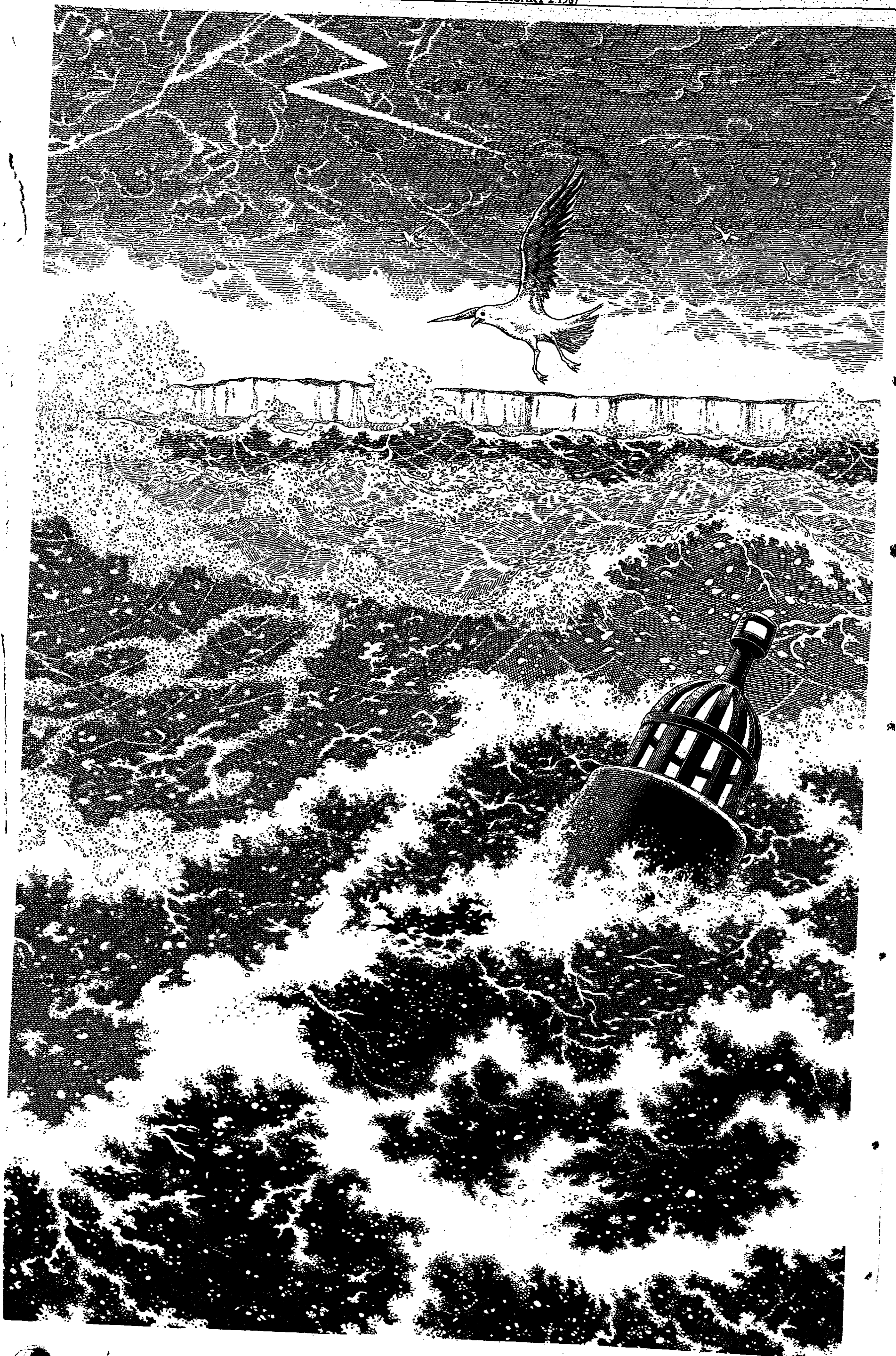
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The fast lane to Europe.

Falklands fishing zone

Argentina unlikely to risk 'squid war'

By Andrew McEwen

Britain's unilaterally imposed fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands came into force yesterday amid predictions that neither Argentina nor the Soviet Union would risk a "squid war".

Argentina's Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, has indicated that its vessels will not test the 150-mile limit, because it coincides with Britain's military exclusion zone.

The Soviet fishing fleet, the largest in Falklands waters in the past, has not applied for fishing licences. However, Whitehall sources say that Moscow has given assurances that the zone will be respected.

The official view remains as recently announced by Mr Timothy Eggar, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office: "We are reasonably confident there will be no determined effort to break the (fishing) regime."

Any test of British resolve is thought unlikely before the end of the month when shoals of squid and krill arrive in Falklands waters. The high season extends from then until the end of June.

Argentina's anger centres on the way the zone decision was taken. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, announced the Falkland Islands Interim Conservation and Management Zone (FICZ) on October 29 in response to fears that over-fishing would destroy stocks. Behind the decision lay Whitehall's concern over a bilateral fishing agreement between Buenos Aires and Moscow signed in July.

Whitehall has always insisted that Britain wanted a regional agreement on fishing policy but could not persuade the Argentinians to discuss it.

Argentine sources reply that Britain jumped the gun, making its own policy without awaiting the outcome of an

international report which might have led Buenos Aires to co-operate.

Since Sir Geoffrey's announcement the nations that traditionally fished off the Falklands have applied for licences with the exception of the Soviet Union, East Germany and Bulgaria. Poland broke ranks with the Soviet bloc, and Spanish trawlersmen with Buenos Aires, by applying for licences.

The Falkland Islands Government will earn £7 million for 215 licences at widely varying prices. There will be vessels from 10 nations, but there will be only three from Britain, of which two will be Spanish trawlers under British flags.

The Falkland Islands Government is mounting a modest patrol using two rented unarmed ships and a West German Dornier aircraft. It will be able to call on Royal Navy support.

Grenade raid on Soweto official

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town

Six people were injured when unidentified assailants threw three hand grenades and fired several shots from AK 47 assault rifles at the home of a Soweto city councillor on Saturday night, the Government's Bureau for Information reported yesterday.

The councillor, Mrs S. Senokwane, was in the kitchen at the time, and was not injured. A black constable guarding the house, and five children, ranging from a one-year-old baby to a teenager, were wounded by shrapnel.

Councillors in black townships, seen by militant blacks as "part of the system" and therefore collaborators with the Government, have frequently been the target of violent attacks over the past two-and-a-half years of civil strife, during which more than 2,200 people have been killed.

Meanwhile, a member of the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apartheid movement, Mr Victor Ntuli, was reported to have narrowly escaped an attempt on his life yesterday only an hour before he attended a funeral for four members of his family killed in an earlier attack.

The City Press newspaper said that Mr Ntuli and several colleagues were attacked by heavily armed black vigilantes while trying to hire a township taxi to go to the funeral in Chesterville, a black residential area near Durban.

The funeral was for six people killed by unknown assailants in the KwaMakhutha township, south of Durban, last month (Jan). It is believed that Mr Ntuli was



Mr Archie Gumede, leader of the UDF group, in tears at the funeral of six of his murdered followers in Chesterville.

also the intended target of that attack because of his UDF affiliation.

It was seen at the time as an episode in continuing murderous feuding between the UDF and the conservative Inkatha organization of Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of the KwaZulu tribal homeland.

Those African countries which talk about boycotting South Africa, they just talk. They can't do it," the Malawi News Agency quoted Dr Banda as telling a political rally in this central town at the weekend.

Worrall decision catches Botha camp off-guard

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town

The resignation of Dr Denis Worrall, South Africa's polished and articulate Ambassador in London, is still sending tremors through the white political landscape here.

Weekend editions of both English and Afrikaans newspapers found themselves for once largely in agreement that President Botha had miscalculated in calling a white general election for May 6, and was now facing a much more complex contest than he had reckoned on.

Commentators suggested that Mr Botha, by pursuing headline policies to deal with an electoral threat envisaged as coming mainly from the extreme right, had unexpectedly breathed new life into political parties to his left, sparking revolt among the more reform-minded of his own supporters.

There is still no firm word on Dr Worrall's plans, but the strong expectation is that he will contest the election as an independent, possibly in a seat held by a Cabinet minister. The possibility that he could even stand for the ultra-liberal Progressive Federal Party (PFP) is not ruled out, though unlikely.

His most likely target, political observers here believe, is Mr Stoffel Botha, the Minister of Home Affairs, whose position in the Port Natal constituency is thought to be vulnerable after his brusque rejection at the end of last year of the proposals of the so-called Natal indaba.

The indaba (Zulu for a tribal assembly), an all-race constitutional conference that drew up a blueprint for a qualified form of black majority rule in Natal province, had Dr Worrall's support.

Three leading professors at

Stellenbosch University, previously regarded as pillars of the Afrikaner academic establishment, spoke at the weekend in favour of Dr Worrall's apparent decision to break with the Government.

Professor Samie Terblanche, deputy chairman of the government-oriented South African Broadcasting Corporation, said that if Dr Worrall could help break the logjam now immobilizing political reform he would have "my whole-hearted support".

There are signs that Pretoria, preoccupied with the threat from the far-right, has been taken unaware by the growing impatience of moderate Afrikaner politicians, businessmen and intellectuals at the government's retreat in recent months into a mental and ideological laager.

Reports of possible mass abstentions by National Party supporters were taken seriously enough by Pretoria at the weekend for Mr Chris Heitsch, the party's Cape leader, to appeal to voters through the Afrikaans Sunday paper, *Rapport*, to resist "this useless gesture".

Dr Worrall's resignation was preceded some two weeks earlier by the resignation of Mr Wynand Malan, the Government MP for Randburg, who belonged to a group of younger ruling party parliamentarians sometimes referred to as the "New Nats".

Some estimates put the "New Nats" number as high as 30 out of the government's total complement of 126 MPs. They are said to favour dismantling the remaining racial segregation laws and some would also like to see Mr Nelson Mandela freed.

Furore over Ottawa accord

From John Best, Ottawa

Fishermen and political leaders on Canada's east coast are up in arms over an agreement which gives France widespread fishing rights in the Gulf of St Lawrence and off the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland.

The concessions are the price Canadian negotiators paid to get France to agree to third party arbitration in its long-standing dispute over the maritime boundary.

France has been claiming a full 200-mile fishing and economic zone for two tiny

French-owned islands just south of Newfoundland. The claim encompasses Canada's 200-mile zone in that area.

Canada maintains that the two islands are entitled to only a 12-mile territorial limit. Until now, it has been unsuccessful in persuading France to accept arbitration of the issue.

Under an agreement reached by Canadian and French diplomatic negotiators in Paris in late January, binding third party adjudication will now take place, subject to the negotiation of a treaty this

year on composition of an international tribunal.

The agreement gives French trawlers extensive fishing rights off various parts of the Newfoundland coast without restricting their activities in the disputed area seaward from St Pierre and Miquelon. The area is already heavily over-fished.

The accord was branded a "sell out" and a "cave in" by many Newfoundlanders and by Opposition members of the House of Commons in Ottawa, where it kept the daily question period in tumult all last week.

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A tight squeeze in Russia

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A chronic shortage of pantyhose in all 15 republics of the Soviet Union has prompted an official disclosure that women will have to make do with only two new pairs of tights this year and perhaps even less by 1990.

The shortage has exposed the enormity of problems facing Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, in his attempt to modernize the Soviet economy and push through reforms.

Under the headline "Where have all the tights gone?" the magazine *Nedel'ya* chose a time when daytime temperatures in Moscow have frequently been dropping below minus 20 C to publish its exposé of bureaucratic bungling on a heroic scale.

Prompted by angry readers' letters about the absence of tights in shops, the magazine discovered that the Ministry of Trade had underestimated the number of pairs required from the Ministry of Light Industry, which in turn had failed to secure the necessary raw materials from the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

The magazine button-holed Flora Zakharova, a senior official at the Ministry of Trade, who said that Soviet women were responsible for the shortage because more are preferring to wear tights than socks.

"They are buying a couple of pairs at a time because of the drop in price and are not wearing them as carefully as before," the trade official said.

The magazine - a supplement to *Izvestia* - noted: "The Ministry of Trade will supply the average woman with two pairs a year at the very most. And they ask you to be very careful with them. Until better days come."

Haifa bus bombing injures 9

Jerusalem - Nine people were injured yesterday, one seriously, when a bomb exploded on a bus travelling from Haifa, the country's main Mediterranean port, to Jerusalem (David Bernstein writes).

The explosion occurred at 10am, about half-an-hour after the bus had left Haifa.

The blast tore the front door off the bus and shattered its windows. Most of the passengers escaped unhurt and, of the nine wounded, only one, a 78-year-old man, received serious injuries.

Speedy Rajiv

Delhi (AP) - The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, an ex-pilot, drove his bullet-proof Mercedes so fast that his escort car had an accident and the driver was injured, according to Delhi Sunday newspapers.

Hotel fire

Taipei (Reuters) - Seventeen people died and 13 were injured after being trapped by flames when a sweep through a hotel in the southern Taiwan city of Kaohsiung.

Boy shot

Philadelphia (Reuters) - Edward Smith, aged 44, alleged to have shot and killed a 16-year-old boy after snowballs were thrown at his house, is being held in custody without bail until he is formally charged later this week.

Paw's price

New York (AP) - A rare hairy paw-foot wing armchair fetched \$2.75 million (£1.7 million) at auction at the weekend, establishing a record for any piece of furniture sold at auction, a spokesman for Sotheby's said.

Unrest in Romania

Leaflets found as desperation grows

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Hundreds of leaflets encouraging Romanians to resist the Ceausescu regime were found in Bucharest at the weekend.

The leaflets, hinting for the first time at the existence of organized underground opposition to Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, the country's leader, urged Romanians to hoard food, stay at home and "wait" for the "corrupt and wicked" regime to collapse.

Unprecedented in a country whose secret police have been estimated to employ one in five of the population, the leaflets are the most vivid sign of a growing feeling of desperation among Romanians.

The combination of a corrupt but omnipresent secret police and a shortage of basic foodstuffs is stretching Romanians' tolerance to the limit.

Shortages of electricity have also contributed to the mood, but in unexpected ways. As

television broadcasts are limited to only two hours a day and are exclusively taken up with Ceausescu's speeches, a boom in videos has introduced Romanians to the unlikely but increasingly popular figure of Rambo.

His name is appearing on snow-covered walls with increasing frequency. The authorities are planning to tax videos out of existence but, thanks to the large numbers of Middle East students in Bucharest, the videos have already become a vital part of the black market.

Despite these warnings and the impoverished state of his people, Mr Ceausescu shows no sign of changing course.

In his recent 70th birthday speech, he made it clear that reforms in Hungary and those announced by Mr Gorbachev in the Soviet Union were not "faithful" to communism. They would not be imitated in Romania, he said.

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South Pole expedition

Relief greets 'decision' to abandon race

From Richard Long, Wellington

American and New Zealand Antarctic experts yesterday greeted with relief reports from Norway suggesting that a private Norwegian expedition, attempting to follow in the footsteps of the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, had decided to turn back 240 miles short of the South Pole.

The Antarctic experts had become increasingly concerned that the four-person "90 Degrees South Expedition" could become trapped by the rapid onset of the long Antarctic winter.

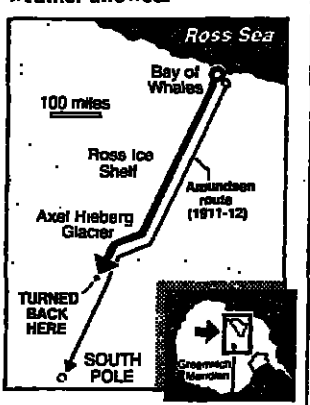
These fears increased when the expedition, led by Dr Monica Kristensen, halted for five days at Depot Four on the edge of the polar plateau after ascending the crevasse-ridden Axel Heiberg glacier. Radio messages between Dr Kristensen and her support ship made it clear the party had not been halted by sickness, injury or bad weather.

This led to speculation that there were differences of view over whether to push ahead to the Pole — risking a return through early winter blizzards — or to turn back to catch their ship before it became endangered by winter ice.

The expedition includes a British glaciologist, Dr Neil McIntyre, and two Danish dog-handlers, Jan Almqvist and Jacob Meisner.

The Antarctic weather begins to deteriorate rapidly in early February and the Americans have made it clear that the last flight to their South Pole base would be on February 14.

The American National Science Foundation, which runs the Antarctic programme, said it could provide an airlift only if there was an official request from a government and if the weather allowed.



Eight die in Karachi clashes

From Zahid Hussain, Karachi

At least eight people, including a policeman, have been reported killed and more than 100 injured in three days of fierce clashes in Orangi Town, a predominantly Bihari-populated area in Karachi.

The clashes involved a mob agitating for the release of Mr Afaz Shahid, a Member of Parliament for Orangi, and for the repatriation of Biharis from Bangladesh.

The trouble began on Friday when one person was killed and several wounded by police gunfire. The situation became more serious on Saturday when more than 4,000 people attacked the local police station with home-made bombs.

Police opened fire, killing five people and 35 were wounded, including many police.

The clashes continued until late at night. Yesterday morning the mob attacked the police station with petrol bombs. Two policemen were seriously injured while one person was reported killed and several others wounded.

Bombs exploded in various parts of the town yesterday. Protesters have blocked roads and the area is cut off.

Mr Shahid was arrested nine months ago while on a hunger strike to demand the repatriation of more than 200,000 Biharis stranded in Bangladesh, who had opted to live in Pakistan after the formation of Bangladesh in 1971.



A plainclothes policeman, armed with a shotgun, chasing protesters in Orangi Town, Karachi, during the riots.

European View

Germans adopt EEC as their 'second home'

From Richard Owen, Bonn

"Europe is not just a vague concept to us," one West German intellectual said during the recent election campaign. "It is part of the way we look at ourselves and the world."

The West German commitment to the EEC and Nato is fully assured for the next four years under the renewed conservative Christian Democrat-Liberal coalition. The possibility of a future left-wing Social Democratic (SPD) leadership under a figure such as Herr Oskar Lafontaine, regional Prime Minister of the Saarland, following the failure of Herr Johannes Rau's campaign for the chancellorship, raises the distant prospect of change under a future SPD administration.

Herr Lafontaine, for example, is an opponent of the commitment to nuclear power in agreed EEC energy policy. Above all, he wants West Germany to pull out of the Military Command of Nato.

The Greens, who emerged strengthened from last month's poll, are even more strongly anti-EEC and anti-Nato and are potential coalition partners of the SPD if it now shifts to the left.

But Bonn's attitude to the EEC, as to Nato, is in the end

governed by the hard facts of geo-politics and economics. Half of West Germany's external trade is with other EEC states. The West Germans call themselves the paymasters of Europe.

Herr Ignaz Kiechle, Agriculture Minister, spoke

Europe... part of the way we look at the world

out last week in favour of "regionalization" of the Common Agricultural Policy, which some see as the end of the wedge of national farm support and hence re-nationalization of the CAP.

In foreign affairs, Bonn, under the apparently eternal guidance of Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister since 1974, invariably goes along with the EEC majority, even when it has doubts.

In the recent case of EEC sanctions against South Africa, Bonn fully supported limited measures while ensuring that they remained limited (no ban on South African coal, for example).

Bonn also took part in EEC sanctions against Syria after the failed attempt last year by Nizar Hindawi, a Jordanian terrorist, to blow up an El Al airliner at London's Heathrow Airport.

Bonn's desire to eliminate terrorism, both home-grown (the so-called Red Army Faction) and foreign-inspired, was reinforced in this case by the conviction last November of Hindawi's brother, Ahmed Hasi, for a bomb attack in Berlin using explosives supplied by the Syrians.

The latest round of kidnappings in Beirut has similarly reinforced West German determination to co-operate with other EEC states in the fight against terrorism, although — as in the case of France — Bonn's sensitivity to the fate of its hostages in Lebanon makes it rather keener on effective behind-the-scenes deals than on high-sounding EEC rhetoric about not giving in to terrorist blackmail.

Seen from Brussels, the EEC is both a grand design (the anniversary of the Treaty of Rome falls in March this year) and at the same time a centre of dealing and fixing, whether over the Middle East or trading disputes with the United States.

In London, the EEC is arguably only beginning to be perceived as a Community which shapes British lives; British scepticism, an island psychology and an imperial past still make the British view the EEC slightly askance.

In Paris, there is closer identification with the Community, but on the deep-rooted French assumption that French national interests are also European interests.

In Bonn, as in no other European capital, the EEC is a vital part of the national political fabric. Until recently Bonn took little interest in EEC bureaucratic appointments and its two commissioners in Brussels are not seen as high-flyers. But this attitude is changing, and it is suggested in Bonn that Count Otto Lambsdorff, the talented Liberal politician whose career was cut short by a corruption scandal could be Bonn's candidate to succeed M Jacques Delors as President of the EEC Commission.

Even a slightly weakened Chancellor Kohl could still, if he chose, seize a leadership role in Europe, especially now that he is into his second full-term of office.

The question will not go away just because the West German elections are over for another four years.

During the election campaign leaders of all the main parties repeatedly referred to the European Community as a matter of course, using West Germany's membership of the EEC to underline West Germany's national identity and international acceptance.

Because of the need to emerge from the shadow of the Nazi past, and because of the problems posed for German political psychology by the post-war division of Germany into East and West, the EEC has become a kind of second home to West Germans, even though reunification of Germany remains Bonn's official long-term aim.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl observed recently that the Federal Republic was the West Germans' Fatherland but that their future belonged in Europe which, with completion of the internal market in 1992, would become a united entity of over 320 million people.

"Many people fail to realize what this means," he said, with unusual passion.

Among British politicians only Sir Henry Plumb, the newly-elected president of the European Parliament, matched this with his remark at Strasbourg this month that he was "born an Englishman but would die a European".

In part, the West German obsession with the EEC stems from the country's long-standing conundrum: what to do with the enormous economic and hence political power generated by the post-war West German economic miracle.

The old adage is that West Germany is an economic giant but a political dwarf. Bonn has to some extent resolved this paradox by deciding that West Germany should — up to a point — subsume its identity within the European Community. West German politicians never cease to remind their audiences that Europe's 320

Born an Englishman but would die a European

million people formed the largest and most powerful trading bloc in the world.

And yet, as the election campaign shows, West Germans have still not really decided that it is safe to assess themselves. Chancellor Kohl is re-elected but is constrained by a reduced majority and by the increased power of his coalition partners, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), who were given extra electoral support in the two-tier voting system precisely because they are seen as a moderating force and a brake on nationalism. The fear is, it seems, that a too powerful German Government, even within the confines of the EEC, might become arrogant.

The architecture of the government complex in Bonn is deliberately under-stated, and Bonn remains in many ways what it was before it became the federal capital: agreeably provincial, small-scale, a small town in Germany.

Even a slightly weakened Chancellor Kohl could still, if he chose, seize a leadership role in Europe, especially now that he is into his second full-term of office.

The question will not go away just because the West German elections are over for another four years.

Brazil's constitution

Drive to dismantle authoritarian laws

From Mac Margolis, Rio de Janeiro

The Brazilian Parliament started to dismantle more than two decades of authoritarian legislation when the Constitutional Assembly opened in Brasilia yesterday.

The assembly comprises 559 senators and federal deputies who will draft a new constitution, the eighth since Emperor Dom Pedro I declared independence from Portugal in 1822.

The constitutional reform is the first since the military closed Congress and gutted democracy with a barrage of "Institutional Acts" from 1964.

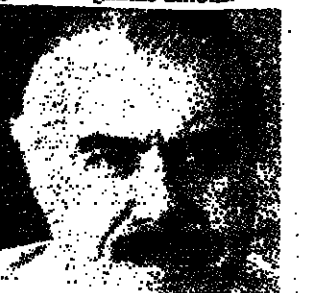
In a country long ruled by autocrats and military men, the constitution has been treated as a flexible document, to be invoked or ignored according to the vagaries of the political moment.

The constitution, drafted under Dom Pedro I abolished torture, punishment by whip and the branding of humans with irons. But slave owners continued these practices for years. In 1946 the democratically convened Constitutional Assembly decided to make public education obligatory. Yet nearly 25 per cent of the population is illiterate.

One of the first items will be to determine the length of mandate for President Sarney.

who, like the five previous military presidents, was chosen by an electoral college. Brazilians have not voted for a president since 1960.

A number of groups have begun jockeying for influence. The conservative Rural Democratic Union, comprising ranchers who have raised funds through nationwide cattle auctions, is pressuring the Government to scale down its ambitious promise of land reform and guarantee property rights. The militant wing of the Roman Catholic Church is demanding rights for the landless. Industrial leaders want to roll back state interference in the economy. Labour leaders want a shorter working week and enhanced rights to organize unions.



President Sarney: Chosen by an electoral college.

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Watershed vote for Aquino regime

From David Watts, Manila

Filipinos vote today on a new constitution in their first democratic exercise since the overthrow of President Ferdinand Marcos almost a year ago.

But the vote is much more than approval of a document that few of the 25 million voters will have read. To both supporters and opponents of President Corason Aquino it is a watershed which will either legitimise a Government which until now has been revolutionary, or undermine the tenuous stability it has achieved.

As the President says: "The enemies of democracy agree with the friends of democracy that the ratification of the proposed constitution is essential to the preservation of democracy in the Philippines. This explains the desperate efforts of the opponents of the constitution to prevent the plebiscite."

What should be a disinterested political exercise has become a referendum on the popularity of Mrs Aquino and the way the constitution has been drawn up — by a commission appointed by the President and consisting of her political supporters and relatives of her ministers.

The constitution should have been adopted or rejected on its merits. It has not got good points despite the critics. I'm really sorry that some politicians have used a legitimate campaign for the constitution as a platform for their own future campaigns. But at

the same time we recognise this constitution is going to be ratified because everyone wants to run for public office. Politics is a form of spectator sport in this country," said a lawyer.

The Government has been running an active campaign to get out the "Yes" vote with extensive use of time on radio and television using slogans which promise something approaching a panacea for all the country's ills. Opponents of the charter say that its ratification is one more slip down the slide to communism.

The constitution's opponents have coalesced around the former Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile. He is the most visible and politically important member of the Coalition for Democratic Action (CODA).

CODA is dedicated to saving the Republic and democracy while stopping the "incompetence, arrogance, inexperience and bungling of the Aquino Administration".

Left-wing mass union organizations are also campaigning for a "No" vote with their 3.5 million members. The communist New People's Army, which has been negotiating a ceasefire with the Government, has not taken a national position against ratification.

The Government is confident of a victory in the vote. The process will be overseen by a revamped commission on elections which has been



Supporters of President Aquino forming the letter "L" for *laban*, meaning to fight, during a rally in Manila at the weekend in support of a "Yes" vote in today's referendum.

purged of its corrupt element in Manila. But in the provinces some of the old, corrupt Marcos-era figures remain. They will be watched by the National Movement for Free Elections, now an official body affiliated to the Government.

The document itself is a

reflection of the times; a mass of provisions in a strong Bill of Rights to try to ensure that nothing like the Marcos dictatorship ever recurs. It must be one of the few constitutions in the world that commands citizens to love one another.

The most controversial pro-

visions are on the President's term of office, which would allow Mrs Aquino to remain President until 1992, on foreign investment, which the opposition claims is too liberal, and a clause which commits the Government to a policy of maintaining "freedom from nuclear weapons".

Talks to ease tensions

India and Pakistan fail to reach border agreement

From Our Correspondent Delhi

Indian and Pakistani delegations failed to reach agreement in weekend talks aimed at easing tensions along their common border but said they will meet again today for further discussions.

Troop build-ups on both sides of the border in the past two weeks have threatened the subcontinent's stability.

Mr Gopalaswami Parthasarthy, Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a news conference yesterday that both sides have proposed "concrete measures to prevent further escalation of tensions". He declined to give specifics and refused to answer one question on whether the hitch was over the timetable for a withdrawal of forces.

The talks began on Sat-

urday and were to have concluded yesterday. Mr Parthasarthy said the meeting was extended because "specific proposals" required further discussion.

On Saturday, the spokesman had described the opening round of negotiations as having "promoted a better mutual understanding".

The Pakistani delegation was led by Mr Abdul Sattar, the Foreign Minister. The Indian side was headed by Mr Alfred Gonsalves, acting Foreign Minister. Both are backed up by Defence and Foreign Ministry officials.

India has called on Pakistan to announce the end to military manoeuvres near the border in exchange for pulling back Indian Army forces in Punjab, according to an Indian official, who insisted on anonymity.

Western diplomatic sources, who have viewed the border tension as "sabre-rattling", said there was concern that an incident between the opposing troops could provoke an unwanted conflict. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the division of the subcontinent in 1947.

On January 23 India moved thousands of troops into Punjab to counter what it alleged was an "unusual" build-up of Pakistani troops across the frontier.

One Government official said at least 220,000 men were activated. India also threatened to send additional troops into neighbouring states of Kashmir and Rajasthan if the impasse persisted. The two countries share a 1,836-mile border.

Cuban dissident leaves refuge

From Susan MacDonald Paris

A Cuban dissident who has lived in the French Embassy in Havana for the past five months, having sought refuge there last August, has left the Embassy of his own accord.

The French Foreign Affairs Ministry confirmed that Professor Ricardo Bofill, left the Embassy on Saturday morning. "At his request" he was accompanied to a doctor by an

embassy official. He is known to suffer from heart problems.

The Ministry added that it had been in permanent contact with the Cuban authorities during Professor Bofill's refuge and was convinced that he would not be harassed after his voluntary departure and could lead a normal life.

The 52-year-old academic has continued over the years to speak against President Castro's regime, even though

he was part of the revolution in the early days and as a professor of sociology was drenched in the Marxist sociology faculty.

His criticism led to his dismissal, however, and in 1983 both he and some French journalists, who had tried to interview him, were arrested.

The professor's prison sentence of several years was cut short due to his ill health and he was released after serving one year.

Law Report February 2 1987

Two labels on eggs unlawful

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food v Porter
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Macpherson
[Judgment January 29]

There was no compliance with regulations of the Council of the European Communities which provided for packs of eggs to be stamped with a packing week number if a pack bore two or more different week-packing numbers.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing a prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated from the decision of the Folkstone Justices on May 23, 1985.

Miss Geneva Caws for the prosecutor; Mr Geoffrey Nice for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said the defendant had charged the defendant with marketing one large pack of eggs the label whereof failed to comply with articles 2.1 and 17 of Council Regulation 2772/75 of the European Communities and regulation 9(d) of the Eggs (Marketing Standards) Regulations (SI 1973 15) (as amended by SI 1983 No 1600), and section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972.

The justices heard the information on May 23, 1985 and found the defendant carried on business as a packer and supplier of eggs and that on September 20, 1984 she had delivered 20 cases of eggs to the Densole Egg Farm. The eggs were required to be labelled with the packing week number in accordance with a table circulated in the EEC.

A Ministry inspector found that one case bore two labels one indicating the packing week number was week 40, the other that it was week 37. It was the inspector's opinion that the

quality of the eggs was consistent with their having been packed in week 37.

At the close of the prosecution case, counsel for the defendant contended the evidence disclosed no offence under article 17 in that the case of eggs bore the correct week number (40).

The presence of the second and incorrect packing number, although possibly forming the basis of an offence under article 21, did not detract from the fact that article 17(e) had been complied with.

The prosecution contended that if a box were stamped with different packing week numbers it could not be said there had been placed on the box a number which indicated the packing week as required by article 17.

The prosecution pointed out the evidence did not substantiate the defendant's contention that the correct packing week was 40 rather than 37. The justices were of the opinion that the mandatory requirements of article 17 had been complied with by the affixing of one of the two labels. The presence of the second and incorrect label was confusing and undesirable and in all probability constituted an offence under article 21.

His Lordship disagreed with the justices. It was beyond argument that what article 17 required a packer to do was to put one indication of the relevant week on a package. There was no reason why, for the removal of all doubt, a charge under article 21 could not have been included in the information.

Mr Justice Macpherson delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: MAFF Solicitor, Gilling, Wilson & Harvie, Canterbury.

Presumption of undue influence

Midland Bank plc v Shephard

Authorities on the presumption of undue influence were summarised by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Balcombe) on January 28 in dismissing an appeal by a wife against her bank.

Mrs Sherry Lou Shephard, defendant in an action by Midland Bank plc to recover moneys due on Mr and Mrs Shephard's joint account at its Pall Mall branch, appealed against an order of Mr Justice Jupp on July 13, 1986, who affirmed the order of Master Bickford-Smith on August 5, 1985, under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, who gave judgment for the bank for the overdrawn sum of £11,475 and interest, on the joint account.

The Court of Appeal rejected Mrs Shephard's assertion that the bank could not enforce against her the obligation contained in the joint account mandate because she was induced to sign it by the undue influence of her husband who was acting for the purpose of obtaining her signature as the agent of the bank.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the authorities established:

Estate can sue in UK

Holmes v Bangladesh Biman Corporation

Carriage of a passenger by a carrier by air for reward on an international flight from Chittagong to Dhaka which crashed resulting in the death of the passenger, was non-international carriage by air in respect of which Schedule 1 to the Carriage by Air Act (Application of Provisions) Order (SI 1967 No 480), which applied the provisions of the amended Warsaw Convention to non-international carriage, had effect.

Accordingly, the estate of the deceased, a British citizen domi-

1 The confidential relationship between husband and wife did not give rise by itself to a presumption of undue influence: per Lord Justice Dillon in *Kings North Trust Ltd v Bell* (1986) 1 WLR 119, 123 and per Lord Scarman in *National Westminster Bank v Morgan* (1985) AC 686, 703.

2 Even if the relationship between the parties gave rise to a presumption of undue influence, the transaction would not be set aside unless it was to the manifest disadvantage of the person influenced: see *National Westminster Bank v Morgan* at p704.

3 The court should examine the facts to see whether the relevant transaction had been or should be presumed to have been procured under undue influence and if so whether the transaction was so disadvantageous to the person seeking to set it aside as to be unfair.

4 The court would not enforce a transaction at the suit of a creditor if it could be shown that the creditor entrusted the task of obtaining the relevant documents to someone who was in a position to influence the debtor and who procured the signature of the debtor by means of undue influence or by means of fraudulent misrepresentation.

ciled in the United Kingdom, was entitled to bring a claim for damages in the UK against the carrier within the terms of Schedule 1 to the 1967 Order. Mr Justice Leggatt so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division on January 29 a preliminary issue when he gave judgment for the plaintiff, the widow and executrix of Geoffrey Paul Mervyn Holmes, deceased, in an action on behalf of the estate and the deceased's dependants in respect of his death on August 5, 1984, as a passenger on a defendant's aircraft which crashed on an internal flight as it approached Zia Airport.

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SPECTRUM

Beirut: inside the 'city of wolves'

Terry Waite is the latest victim of the place described by Druze leader

Walid Jumblatt as 'a city of wolves'.

Robert Fisk looks at the tragedy of West Beirut

On July 3, 1940, the correspondent of the *Standard* newspaper in Beirut was moved to dispatch a chilling report to his office in London. "Anarchy is now the order of the day," he wrote. "Our properties and personal safety are endangered, no satisfaction can be obtained, and crimes are committed with impunity. Several Europeans have already quitted their homes and suspended their affairs, in order to find protection in more peaceful countries."

He went on to describe how a French businessman had narrowly escaped being taken hostage in Beirut by four armed men.

Browsing through the archives of the American University library in West Beirut, other ghostly premonitions appear. Here is the famous 19th-century lithograph of David Roberts, riding his mule through the Chouf mountains from Sidon, being warned of the danger of gunmen in Baalbek. There a tattered brown copy of a Beirut newspaper from the 1930s contains a front page photograph of Phalangist militiamen parading in the district of Ein El-Rumaneh; there are references in it to the "cleansing" of Beirut. A scratched monochrome newsreel of 1958 shows the lights of Beirut Bay twinkling above the St George Hotel as the commentator suggests darkly that heaven cannot last forever.

It is easy to understand why Beirut — and especially West Beirut — is alluring to foreigners. Its complex of religious faiths, its mixture of Arab and French culture, its efficiency — even in war — and its courage, above all its friendliness, gave it a kind of emotional security. Arriving from Europe, Beirut always



Jubilant on the streets: Shia militiamen celebrate victory over rivals. (Inset) Terry Waite with Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, whose soldiers were responsible for protecting the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy in Beirut

seemed to be the beginning of the Orient. Flying in from the east, the city personified the start of Europe. It was reassuring to both cultures — but both needed to remember that it also belonged to the other. And both forgot this essential understanding.

The tourists who once flocked to Beirut rarely visited the south, where the poor Shia communities — so soon to be driven in their tens of thousands by Israeli raids to the slums of the western sector of the capital — lived in deprivation, ignored by their predominantly Christian central government. Few visitors drove north of Baalbek; even fewer sought out the Palestinians in their squalid camps. The western powers preferred the status quo: a Christian-controlled government was a western liberal government — or so the accepted philosophy would tacitly have it.

If ever there was a place for an Islamic renaissance, to prove that western culture was decadent, it was Beirut. If ever

there was a place to strike against the powers that had so often been identified with anti-Muslim forces, it was here. The explosions at the American and French military headquarters in West Beirut on October 23, 1983, were the critical turning point in a struggle which stretches all the way to the battlefields outside Basra.

But the West looked at Beirut with a myopic Olympian eye, concentrating on the good things of the city, lulled by its opulence. The Lebanese — far from being the "nest of terrorists" defined by the Israelis and some members of President Reagan's administration — are a fine courageous people worthy, perhaps, of better friends but certainly bearing their own pain for too long in silence.

The Israeli invasion of 1982 — quite apart from the corrupt nature of the previous Syrian presence — inflicted the greatest suffering, and it was there for the world to see, if it chose. The massacre of Palestinians

at Sabra and Chatila was only the edge of the bitterness, yet the western nations rarely if ever raised their voices for the Lebanese victims. "International terrorism" in West Beirut, it seemed, invoked only the suffering inflicted on westerners.

Then the patience snapped. The friendly thoughtful Shias turned against those foreigners who loved their city and hurt them despite their innocence. The Iranian flag — the banner of a foreign land — appeared in West Beirut among the boutiques, the restaurants, the wealthy apartment blocks, as well as among the slums of Bourj El-Barajneh and Hay El-Selam. That flag had come to symbolize in West Beirut a struggle against oppression as surely as the tricolour of the French Revolution did in 18th-century Europe.

That this might be an illusion was not the point. For the people who looked to this

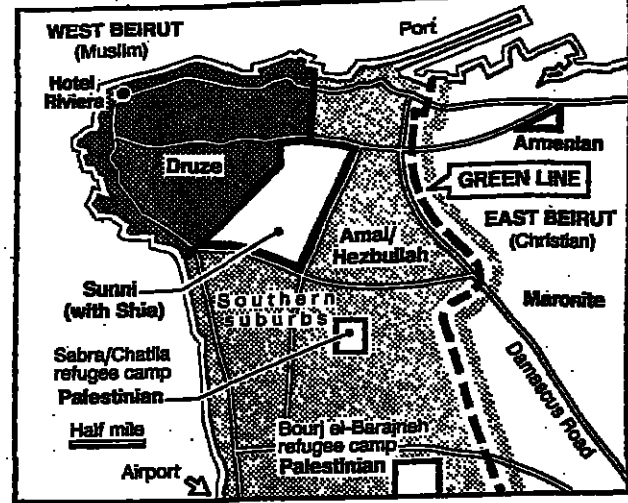
foreign flag, who turned their resentment upon the few westerners who remained, had not just been physically harmed. West Beirut had been invisibly mutilated. And the front line through the city was never so real as it was through the hearts of its own people.

Upon the collapsing economy was built an underworld of crime and corruption in which hostages could be taken for money, in which neighbouring Arab states were themselves involved. Authority was splintered among the militias. Yet physically West Beirut remained much the same. The beaches and discos of the Summerland Hotel, the restaurants of Ein El-Mreisse, the kindness of the Lebanese were still there and so a few westerners — for whom Beirut was a home built on the foundations of Bliss's great university and upon the very antiquity of the country — stayed on. At their peril.

Yet it had become a place where trust was elusive, where promises were made to be broken rather than kept. The very concept of a power-sharing government, originally instituted by the French, failed, just as it had failed in Cyprus and Northern Ireland. The city lost its identity as well as its self-confidence and the Muslim sector of the capital gave way to anarchy as surely as it had in 1940. Can Beirut still be a capital when the country it represents fails to meet the criteria of a nation state?



Jan 12: Terry Waite arrives in Beirut and is escorted by Druze militia to the Hotel Silvers
Jan 13: Meets Druze leader Walid Jumblatt
Jan 14: Meets Shia Amel deputy leader Akel Haydar, then slips out of sight
Jan 15: Resurfaces at hotel and reports "very good progress"; meets Shia religious leader Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddin and Sunni leader Mufti Hassan Khaled
Jan 16: Meets Lebanese PM Hassan Karami
Jan 17: Talks with Sunni leader Salim Hoss
Jan 18: Slips out of hotel, returns after midnight. Says he has had contact with Iran-backed Islamic Jihad
Jan 19: Delayed return to London because of success of negotiations
Jan 20: Holds a two-hour secret meeting, Druze bodyguards then accompany him to an undisclosed location



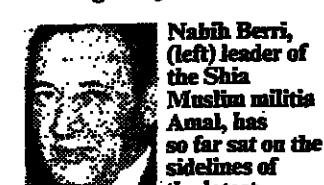
MOVEMENTS AND MILITIAS



Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah (left) is spiritual leader of the Hezbollah (Party of God), Tehran's most important ally in Lebanon. None of Beirut's militias can boast a more rapid rise to power over the past three years. Its name is closely linked to Islamic Jihad (Holy War) — with which Terry Waite was thought to be negotiating the release of foreign hostages when he disappeared — and Hezbollah is thought to have been connected with the suicide bombing attacks on US Marines and French paratroops in October 1983. Its support has since mushroomed in Shia communities in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa valley.

Walid Jumblatt is chief of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia, the last group of any influence in Muslim West Beirut which westerners can still count on for protection. When Terry Waite arrived in Beirut on January 12 it was the heavily-armed Druze fighters who greeted him and who guaranteed his safety before he slipped out of sight eight days later. Allies of Syria and the Soviet Union, the Druze, a sect from the Chouf mountains above Beirut, have a well-earned reputation for ferocity. They are credited with freeing three Soviet hostages by force from their fundamentalist kidnappers in November 1985. In April

last year during a mass evacuation of British and Americans, it was the Druze who escorted the civilians to the safety of Christian East Beirut. Jumblatt is expected to use his influence and possibly his military strength to pressure Shia fundamentalist leaders into delivering the missing envoy.



Nabih Berri, (left) leader of the Shia Muslim militia Amal, has so far sat on the sidelines of the latest hostage crisis. The Damascus-backed force is Lebanon's largest, but Berri's prestige has been undermined by factionalism within the party since 1985. Although rarely hostile to foreigners, Amal has persistently warned they will not be safe in West Beirut while Israel occupies Shia villages. However, Berri's fighters would help Terry Waite if instructed by Damascus.

The most powerful forces outside the mainstream are the Palestinian groups who run the camps of Sabra, Chatila and Bourj Barajneh. They are divided into those loyal to Yasser Arafat and the PLO, and the dissident Fatah force of pro-Damascus anti-Arafat factions. Smaller groups include the Syrian Social National Party (SSNP), the Lebanese Communist Party, the Ba'ath Party and Arab Democratic Party. Nicholas Beeson

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Decayed after a decade?

Today the Georges Pompidou National Centre of Art and Culture, better known to the French as "Beaubourg", celebrates its 10th anniversary.

With 25,000 visitors a day, it attracts twice as many people as the Eiffel Tower, and nearly three times as many as the Louvre. In a decade, it has had 74 million visitors, as many as had originally been expected in half a century.

On seeing the winning model for the new centre, President Georges Pompidou exclaimed, "That'll make people talk!"

Designed by the British architect Richard Rogers and the Italian Renzo Piano the centre, with its glass catapillar-like escalators and red, white and blue entrails unashamedly exposed to the outside world, is still the most controversial of modern Parisian buildings.

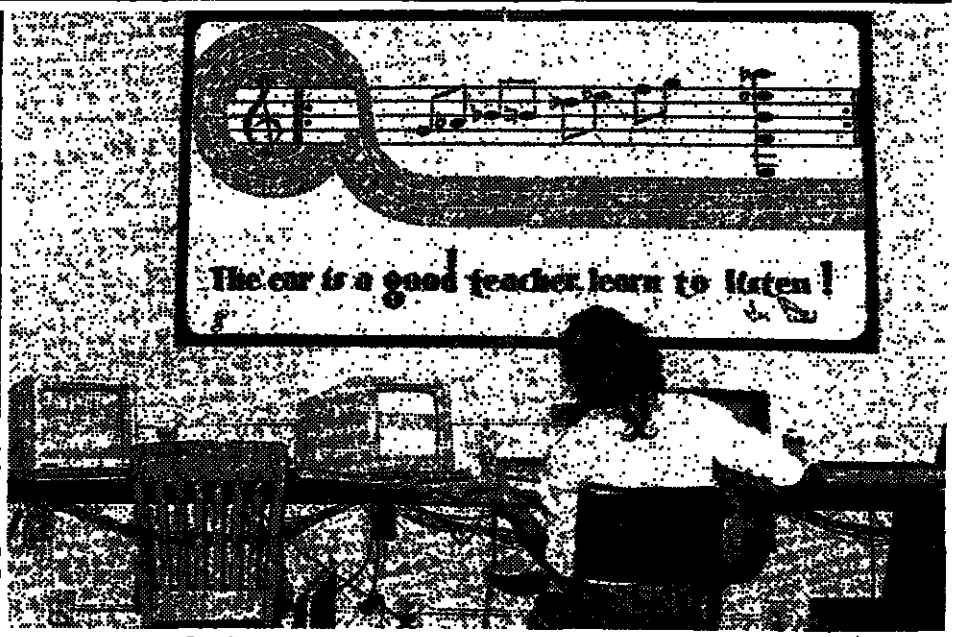
Pompidou's dream, in the art market in France, was to make Paris once more the contemporary art capital of the world. But, while experts and dealers admire the centre's artistic diversity and often consider its exhibitions without equal, they nevertheless note that Paris has not managed to recapture its pre-war glory.

"Baubourg" has certainly not had much influence on the art market in France," says Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan Museum in New York. "The market is in London, New York and Zurich."

Shigeo Chiba, one of the curators of the Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo, says he "envies enormously" the versatility of the Pompidou Centre, but deplores its "lack of audacity" in its choice of paintings.

Despite the daily efforts of 60 cleaners, the building looks grubby. Far from raising the tone of the area, as had been hoped, it has attracted a motley crowd of musicians, acrobats, jugglers, fire-eaters, tramps and drug-addicts.

Diana Geddes



Plugged in to school: making use of the micro-computers at the Musicians Institute

Rock 'n' roll-call

A poster in the entrance to 6757 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, urges, Kitchen-style: "Eric Clapton thinks you should be in school". The building accommodates nearly 1,000 students of America's leading school of rock and contemporary music — the Musicians Institute.

Climbing the steep stairs, a curiously euphonious blend of muffled guitar solos and drum rolls can be heard from 35 not-quite sound-proofed rooms.

Down the narrow corridors of a maze-like building, students congregate for Rock II lessons — classes in studio musicianship, rock vocals or bass guitar playing. The prospectus says: "Rock II will trace the evolution of rock playing from the 1960s, including the Motown sound, Chuck Rayney and John Entwistle to the present styles of the 1980s. Players will transcribe, analyse and perform works typical of the era."

Sallow, long-haired, skinny youths clutch Gibson and Fender guitars or drumsticks. Pupils at MI are aged 17 upwards with an average age of 22. Most of the students look as if they have strayed out of a 1970s heavy metal group. But there is no mistaking their dedication. The institute caters for all levels of expertise and students put in up to 12 hours a day, many staying to practise until late. If they need to brush up on basic musical theory, they can use earphones attached to one of 16 micro-computers.

Skinny youths with Fender guitars are working a 12-hour day in Los Angeles

The computers offer exercises on intervals, arpeggios, scales, sight reading and song writing. By hitting the intervals key, an electronic sound rings out. "Is this a major seventh?" asks the computer.

In the video laboratory, the software allows them to proceed at their own pace, perfecting anything from music reading to their single string guitar technique.

But the high quality of the teachers and personal tuition are the MI's biggest drawcards. In one small classroom Scott Henderson, a 32-year-old former MI student now playing with Chick Corea, gives a basic guitar lesson. Group playing is part of the curriculum. Tim Bogert, a 42-year-old bass guitarist with Vanilla Fudge (and at various times with Rod Stewart and in a group with Jeff Beck and Carmine Appice), specializes in vocal instruction and musical performance. He is about to supervise a group's session in the institute's main auditorium. "I have always been a rather flash player," he says. "You can teach someone style. Most of the kids will have played in a club atmosphere but not in a concert hall. I teach them what it's like

up there in front of a high wattage PA system."

Other top names on the staff include guitarists Joe Pass and Tommy Tedesco, and among the "visiting faculty" are stars like Al DiMeola and Pat Metheny, and Britain's Jack Bruce and Bill Bruford.

Patrick Hicks, formerly a national director of musical education for Yamaha, started teaching at MI in March 1977. Hicks says: "MI is a trade school for aspiring professional contemporary musicians, with an emphasis on rock. They come here to study in the same way they might study automechanics or computer programming. We're giving them the skills to earn a living."

A one-year course at MI costs about £2,700, but the college is accredited and grants and loans are available. Much effort is put into equipping graduates and helping them to find work. Lessons in business management, including tax tips and marketing, are part of the course. Graduates have worked with Sade, the Beach Boys, the Righteous Brothers and many others.

And that poster? Fender, the musical instrument company, sponsors a scholarship programme in Eric Clapton's name. Hicks hopes that Clapton, or "Slowhand" as he is known, will be at MI for the graduation ceremony next month.

Andrew Lycett

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MONDAY PAGE

Increasingly, women are becoming both the pursuers and the pursued in the business world. Jane Bidder shows how executive headhunting became respectable

It's open season in the job jungle

The modern headhunter is not after our scalps — but what is beneath them. It is an increasingly sophisticated, and indeed fashionable, form of recruitment — to the point where any self-respecting company which fancies pinching someone else's high-flier would never stoop to doing the hunting itself.

Instead, it hires a professional headhunter with a sleek sounding name like "Executive Search" which sounds much more palatable and makes the jungle ethos easier to swallow in the midst of the concrete city.

Nor is that the only change. Five years ago, most of these search companies were dominated by men whose previous experience was in industry or commerce (useful for contacts in the headhunting field). Today, most of the pros boast of at least one woman hunter — often with an Oxbridge background.

"It stands to reason that with more women being promoted to executive positions, headhunters should also be employing them to find similar women for clients," says Joanna Foster, head of the Pepperhill Unit which promotes women in business.

"Women can actually be very good at assessing someone's potential. They are often excellent at communication and talking to interviewees. And they can have an uncanny intuition which is an invaluable asset for any headhunter."

hunted (as opposed to being on the other side of the interview table) aren't always successful. "We're still rather modest and not as good at selling ourselves as some men," Foster admits.

Perhaps we should follow the example of our American sisters. In the States — where headhunting is a fact of life in the personnel office — at least one company specializes in finding female staff for clients, particularly if that client requires a token woman for its boardroom.

Similarly, headhunters wearing skirts are two-a-penny in the States. Patti Krite, a New Yorker in her 30s currently working in London for a European bank, says: "I've always employed headhunters to help me in my job as a recruitment consultant. It's the most sensible way to find the right person for the right job — and it saves us a lot of time spent sifting through useless applications."

"I can't ring someone from another company to see if they'd like to swap sides. It's unethical. But a headhunter can do it on my behalf. It's not always that easy, however: you have to control the cast by achieving a rapport with the headhunter so that he or she thinks along the same lines as you."

British tactics, Krite says, tend to be more refined than those employed by hard-headed New Yorkers. "There are a lot more lunches and teas in London, whereas in the States it's more of a boardroom grilling. The British are also more flattered when they're initially contacted. At the



Leader of the pack, Joanna Foster: "Women have intuition, which is invaluable for any headhunter"

interview, they rest on their laurels with a smirk on their faces which says: "You asked me to come here."

"As far as I'm concerned, that's the kiss of death. Candidates must want the job as much as we want them."

Not surprisingly, the man or woman employing the headhunter occasionally feels the whiplash of being asked to come here.

Some take steps to ensure their employees can't work for rivals, particularly if there's a mass defection. Krite says: "But I don't see headhunting as immoral: you have to do what you have to do."

British companies, however, are less convinced. As a result, the biggest headhunters are desperate to shed their unwelcome "poacher" tag and prove they are more about the future than the past.

They're also terrified about being confused with so-called bovies. "Some firms like to call themselves headhunters whereas they're really a group of PR girls with fat address books who will find someone who knows someone who knows someone who might be suitable for the job," claims Hilary Sears, a principal for Carré Orban, one of Europe's biggest headhunters.

THE SEEKERS OF EXCELLENCE

HILARY SEARS

Only two brave potential job candidates have ever turned down Hilary Sears outright — "An elderly gentleman who obviously wasn't used to being contacted out of the blue and a young woman who saw it as a threat rather than a compliment. She felt her name had been handed around."

Apart from these failures, 40-year-old Hilary — who fell for the allure of headhunting after writing a thesis on search consultancy while at the Cranfield Institute — has notched up innumerable successes for her firm, Carré Orban. "It's a fascinating job. It takes guts to ring up someone and ask if they might be interested in a position."

"Because of my sex, there might well be a problem in getting through to the right person at first. Women are too often mistaken for a secretary. I have to use the authority in my voice to get past their own over-zealous secretaries."

Like most of her colleagues, Hilary finds candidates through what she calls "data bases" ("years of experience spent cutting details on people"), and crisscrossing professional information. "I'll identify possible people to speak to before ringing to say we're looking for someone and would they be interested or know someone who is? That way, we put the ball in their court."

"Candidates who sound promising are invited for an interview so we can sift out the good ones and shortlist the good ones for the client (most of our companies are in marketing). When the client does his final interviewing, the whole psychology tends to be different. Instead of the candidate psyching himself up to get the job, it's up to the client to sell it."

Merely advertising a post wouldn't be nearly as effective, she says. "We're talking about appointments carrying a salary of £30,000 plus. Advertising doesn't always catch the eye of the sort of people we want to attract, if they don't bother reading the jobs columns."

Ironically, the most difficult candidates to attract are top women: "I make a point of asking clients if they're willing to take women staff and the answer is always positive. Sadly there are still not enough women with the right experience: too many are in lower management levels."

She has been headhunted herself, "but I tend to be rather hard on them and demand to know how they got my name and why they think I'm suitable..."

VALERIE STOGBALE

The glossy brochure produced by Valerie Stogdale's firm, Russell Reynolds Associates, spells out why headhunters are necessary: cost-effective, confidential and thorough, and seeks to dispel the myth that headhunting is a cloak-and-dagger affair by printing biographies and pictures of all its staff.

Valerie, aged 31, is one of three women headhunters in the London office (there are 14 men) and from her photograph seems more glamorous than you might expect in this line of work.

She claims, however, that neither this nor her sex make any difference to her job: "The male/female aspect isn't something we dwell on."

"I've never been asked specifically to find a female candidate for a client. There are still relatively few women who've become directors so it stands to reason that

most of the people we headhunt are male. Having said that, we are seeing more women in sectors like City investment banks, where promotion seems to be more rapid."

Holder of a Masters in Human Sciences from Oxford, she didn't set out to be a headhunter. She trained as a chartered accountant, but "I soon decided I was interested in what makes organisations tick, not to mention the people in them". To gain experience, she joined a careers counselling firm before going to her present company: "Unlike those headhunters who've come from industry or commerce, I feel I have a broader perspective."

Using this perspective, Valerie covers "human resources", which means finding directors in the personnel, retailing and consumer goods sectors. Like all good hunters, she finds her quarry through a combination of "contacts and prior experience". This can involve making a cold call to someone she doesn't know.

Generally, claims Valerie, the response is positive: "Most people see us, not as a necessary evil, but as a part of executive life."

DIANA WHITINGHAM

Over the past 16 years, Diana Whittingham's personnel experience has caused her to be headhunted between 15 and 20 times. During that time, she has watched the rise of the headhunting profession and seen it become increasingly "sophisticated and acceptable. It's no longer seen as being immoral. I've also noticed that many more women in their 30s and 40s are being chased now. When I was that age, there weren't many of us with the relevant experience."

Diana, who is 52 and runs her own management consultancy firm, claims there are definite stages in the etiquette of headhunting: "The first is usually a phone call. The question, 'Do you know of anyone else?' is invariably

ably a euphemism for 'Are you interested?'

"I'd then try to find out what kind of business it was and what the responsibilities were. I wouldn't really bother with the name of the organization — that's rarely revealed initially."

The next stage is a meeting with the headhunter: "I always tried to make this at his office. It showed what kind of company I was dealing with and it's easier to concentrate there than in a restaurant."

She didn't take up any of the posts offered to her, so does she think headhunting is a waste of time? "No. They simply didn't appeal to me, especially as I was working for a company which promoted from within."

"The one I would have liked — and didn't get — was for a major manufacturing group which wasn't sure how acceptable a woman would be in a crucial executive role. Nowadays, I think there's less bias against women."

JEAN DENTON

One of Britain's most respected business women, Jean Denton was headhunted for her job with Heron Drive and Austin Rover.

Her experience, however, could put many a respected headhunter out of business. For although she's been approached "several times" by professional "executive search" companies, she was actually headhunted by both companies themselves — without the need for (or cost of) a paid headhunter.

"With Austin Rover, a friend rang and asked if I was interested. He didn't actually work for the company but he knew both of us and was simply putting us together. There was never any question of him being paid a fee. "With Heron, an anonymous

clipping of their advertisement arrived in the post one day. I rang them to ask if they knew who'd sent it and they said they had, in case I hadn't spotted the ad myself. I became marketing manager of the retail motor group and ended up as MD of Heron Drive."

By contrast, 50-year-old Jean has never taken up any of the professional headhunters' offers which have come her way: "Their offers didn't really appeal to me."

Jean also warns against being bowled over by the flattering approach of a headhunter: "Sometimes they're looking for a woman not so much because of her skills but because it's the fashion to have a woman on the board. Many headhunters are desperate to find good female candidates but simply don't know where to find them."

Despite this, the whole ethos remains a good thing in Jean's book: "Headhunting can force a company to define what kind of person they're looking for. And that can save time for everyone."

Out of time, out of luck

Yesterday, I gave somebody a breakfast of fried eggs with chewy solidified yolks and bacon burnt to crisp strips. This was because I was still running on "second-person" time and the second person (let us call him "A"), who I was still taking into account as I got out the frying-pan, hadn't sat down at my table for several months.

"A" had been a fast mover, especially when it came to manipulating a knife and fork. Years spent with him had taught me that he demolished his grapefruit in three swallows and was waiting testily for the next course, which I timed to be ready the moment the grapefruit spoon hit the bowl.

Only now I was cooking for "B", deliberate and thoughtful in everything he did, including eating; a man who liked to open up his heart about the West German elections between demolishing each grapefruit segment. Hence the dried-out plateful that he was finally offered and which I had started cooking too soon to accommodate his tortoise pace.

One should not be put out by bad timing. One should simply resolve to move on to "first-person" time, which means doing things when you are good and ready and not a moment before — or after.

Women are not good at this. We time doing our hair by the minutes it takes a man to shave or a child to pack its satchel. Then we marry a bearded gentleman or the child leaves school, and our timetable goes to pieces. Yet still we go on using other people's routines as our egg-timers.

If we lead rushed and scurried working lives, we are often advised to take up pastimes that call for slow dreamy patience such as quilting.

But then someone demands a patchwork bedspread for Christmas and we are back on second-person time — up all night with stiff knuckles and pricked fingers, trying to make the deadline. There are any number of hints on how to save time: have twins rather than separate babies, use paper plates, make a month's supply of

PENNY PERRICK



sardine sandwiches and put them in the freezer.

But wise words on how to spend time in a satisfying way are hard to come by: how to stay in bed with the latest Edna O'Brien collection of short stories when you should be taking the car to be serviced; how to meet your lover when you should be addressing a meeting on separate taxation for women.

People who run themselves on first-person time are gloriously selfish, if a bit inconvenient to have around. They crash around the kitchen at 4am because they fancy making porridge. They monopolize the bathroom for an entire morning, drawing strands of hair through a plastic cap and streaking their Racing Silver.

Living on first-person time becomes so seductive that they can't relocate themselves to second-person time. Going to have dinner with them is a dreadful ordeal because they have been watching television when they should have been peeling the potatoes.

Also, they can't dovetail things and the vegetables are soggy pulp while the beef is so raw that it is practically still running around the meadow.

Appointments are not kept, schedules are not adhered to. Cries of "thoughtless" rend the air. But to those of us who live by the inward ticking of the second-person time clock, such thoughtlessness can seem like a wonderfully reckless act of courage.

Why I'm not a martyr families

I'm now known as a selfish mother. When my daughter, who is learning the recorder, asked me for a clarinet, I said "No". When my son asked me for some new football gear and a ball to boot, I said "No".

I explained to them that the family budget simply would not run to those things at the moment. Besides, I had to pay my club subscription and, anyway, I needed a new racket.

A friend was quite critical (and a bit shocked) when I mentioned this to her. In her view, and probably to others as well, I was being a selfish mother: depriving my children of things just so I could enjoy something myself. But I'm sure they will get more satisfaction from music and sport once they've started paying for it themselves. I allow myself only one social outing a week, and I'm damned if I'm going to give that up.

Still, the attitude of my friend, who has three children and no doubt gives them what they ask for, made me ponder the astonishing ideas so many mothers have concerning the so-called obligations of parenthood.

The general belief seems to be that in order to be a good mother, a woman should prostrate her life before her children, curtail her own cultural interests and make her own wardrobe and appearance second-best to those of her children.

I'm afraid, though, that the birth process is also a burial process for the mother as an individual. When the first baby comes, she ceases to have a personality of her own. She puts aside the once precious husband-wife relationship and replaces it with the Mummy-Daddy relationship. Her love affair with her husband is supplanted by one with her child: not on the same emotional basis, it's true, but equally as time-consuming.

In this worship of the child, mothers breed a generation of weaklings not capable of adjusting to the hard adult world. They make their husbands the displaced persons of the family; they sell their appearances, personalities, in-

FIRST PERSON

Robin Green

tellects and marriages down the river, all in the guise of being "good mothers".

Frankly, I have never spent a lot of money on my daughter's clothes. But how many mothers will agree with my feeling that it is more important to a woman's morale to be well-dressed than it is to her child's?

From what I have observed, happy marriages contain one invariable feature: the husband and wife, after they have become father and mother, have stayed pre-eminently husband and wife. In other relationships, the pre-eminence of the children has been a direct cause of the disintegration of the marriage, thus depriving the children of what they need most of all — proof that a successful marriage can be a reality.

I don't say that mothers should neglect their children so that they can dress well, enjoy themselves and keep the spark of constant flirtation with their menfolk alive. I do believe, though, that mothers should give at least as much attention and consideration to themselves and their husbands as they give to their children.

To me, the mother who finds her intellectual needs completely satisfied in her companionship with her children is a bad mother. She is lazy and unwilling to read and learn enough of what is going on in the world, and so is limited in discussions. I like to keep in touch with everything that's happening around me, and I'm sure I will never feel that I've given up the best years of my life to ungrateful children.

My children get everything necessary to their well-being: love, understanding, companionship, education. But none of it is too extravagantly and obsessively given. I want my children to have a well-adjusted adolescence and a mature adulthood, independent of me. And so I must have a life independent of them.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Worrall's bridge

A new theory for South African ambassador Denis Worrall's sudden resignation reaches me from impeccable political sources in South Africa. I understand that Worrall, whose growing disillusionment with the National Party was well known, has been talking to both opposition parties in Pretoria about a major political realignment following May's general election. Assuming that the Progressive Federal Party and smaller New Republic Party have increased their representation, Worrall believes that liberal Nationalist members could take the opportunity to defect. Talks have centred on the possibility of a new left-of-centre alliance coalescing around Worrall as leader. The theory appears less far-fetched when one remembers that Colin Eglin only reluctantly took the leadership of the PFP after the sudden resignation of Frederik Slabbert last year. It also makes sense of Worrall's one statement about his resignation: "This is a time for bridge-builders."

Cheerless

You could see the audience's dilemma at Saturday's Alliance rally at the Barbican in London. Since they hadn't given David Owen a standing ovation for his sober fireside chat, would it not be a blow to Alliance unity if they awarded one to David Steel for his bouncy, joke-filled electrifying speech minutes later? In the event, after a slow-rolling start, they went ahead and stood for him anyway. The blow to the doctor's self-esteem was compounded later by the reception given to Roy Jenkins, whom he supplanted as SDP leader. Beaming Roy was given a standing ovation before he so much as opened his mouth.

As the Gulf war steps up, I have been sent this Iraqi postage stamp celebrating International Year of Peace. The dove seems to have emerged from the barrel of a gun. After 6½ years of war perhaps Iraq has forgotten what peace is.

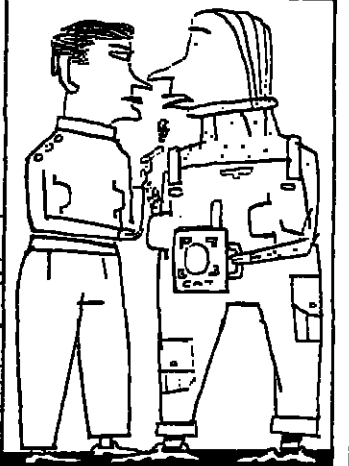
Muggers regrets

Another letter of consolation is winging its way to Alasdair Milne. A longtime friend and colleague, Malcolm Muggeridge, was practically pen-in-hand when I called his Sussex home yesterday. He thinks the BBC's handling of the affair has been "disgraceful" and recalls the occasion back in the early 1960s when he was called in to persuade Milne to stay with the corporation. Grace Wyndham Goldie, the legendary head of TV talks and current affairs, had heard that Milne, having joined the BBC from university, was in need of a change and thinking of quitting. Muggeridge, then the department's senior statesman, was seconded to talk him round. — And save for one brief break, Milne stayed — until Thursday.

Singular silence

The local radio producer whose request for confirmation of Alasdair Milne's resignation (PHS Jan 30) was met by mystified silence at the BBC's General News Service may have been simply unlucky. BBC Press Office insists it verily sped General Newsward with the announcement: my producer, it seems, spoke to the one man at Broadcasting House whom the news had eluded.

BARRY FANTONI



"We're seriously considering shifting our support from Gallup to Mori."

It the bishop

The Bishop of Matabeleland, Robert Mercer, is the latest to show his colours in the fray over the ordination of women priests (which is to be discussed by the House of Bishops this week). The Anglican Consultative Council has received Mercer's reply to its letter about registration for the 1988 Lambeth Conference's affiliated wives' conference. The bishop, who has just announced his resignation from the see, accuses the consultative council of sexism in assuming his successor will be male. "The husbands of women bishops will presumably have a conference of their own," he writes, referring throughout to "he" bishop as either "he" or "she" but "it". Speaking from Zululwayo, Mercer admits to a leg-land at the expense of the female ordinands. "I would participate in my walk-out on this issue," he declares.

PHS

BT and a gap in the strike law

by Graham Mather

If anybody hoped that privatization would lessen the vulnerability of the country's telephone system to industrial action, those hopes should now have been laid to rest. And because telephone, telex and facsimile transmissions are truly essential to an information-based economy, the British Telecom engineers have a power that miners, railway and steel workers no longer possess.

That power should not be overstated. Provided that injured parties are free to take legal action against secondary strikes, and provided that picketing remains within legal limits, management should be able to contain the dispute. The threat of competition — or replacement by another contractor — gives it a powerful incentive to replace employees who break their contracts by going on strike.

But BT's problems point up a gap in the law. There will be disputes where the interests of a group of key employees mean that a ballot in favour of a strike can be secured without difficulty, but the immunity secured by holding the ballot will allow great damage to be inflicted on parties unconnected with the dispute.

In the green paper which preceded the Tebbit trade-union law reforms, civil servants concluded that it might be difficult to tackle the complex issues of protecting

the public from these essential service disputes, arguing that "... the most effective way of making progress on this question is through voluntary no-strike agreements between management and unions in those sectors of industry where strikes might threaten the national interest".

The 1983 Conservative election manifesto went further. It said the next government would consult on the possibility of linking remaining union immunities in the essential services to the observance of agreed dispute procedures. That consultation has yet to take place. The Telecom strike requires that some of the issues be explored more carefully.

Before British Telecom was privatized, vaguely worded legislation made it illegal for telephone workers and other Post Office employees to interrupt the mail or telephone systems. But the criminal law is a clumsy weapon against strikes and the Acts fell into disuse.

No-strike agreements offer more scope. They are spreading in industry. As the TUC general secretary, Norman Willis, argued recently: "I have no doubt that, increasingly, members will be looking to their unions to provide

progress without strikes and without pickets — quite simply, with the minimum of hassle, especially self-induced hassle."

The skeleton of a no-strike agreement exists wherever a trade union is recognized by management. The procedures agreed for the handling of disputes provide the bones on which means for "providing progress without strikes" can be secured. They are wholly compatible with the post-1979 changes to union law which limit trade-union immunities.

Existing procedure agreements aim to provide, in return for an employer's agreeing to recognize a union, a framework in which disputes can be settled, in Norman Willis's phrase, "with the minimum of hassle".

The government should help in this area. A model code for a procedure agreement has already been drafted by the Institute of Directors. Employers and unions need not adopt it; they should be able to agree their own. But it does make sense to include, in the next round of trade-union law reform, a simple provision that breach of dispute procedures would remove union immunity for strike action.

In essential services there is a case for going further. There, the

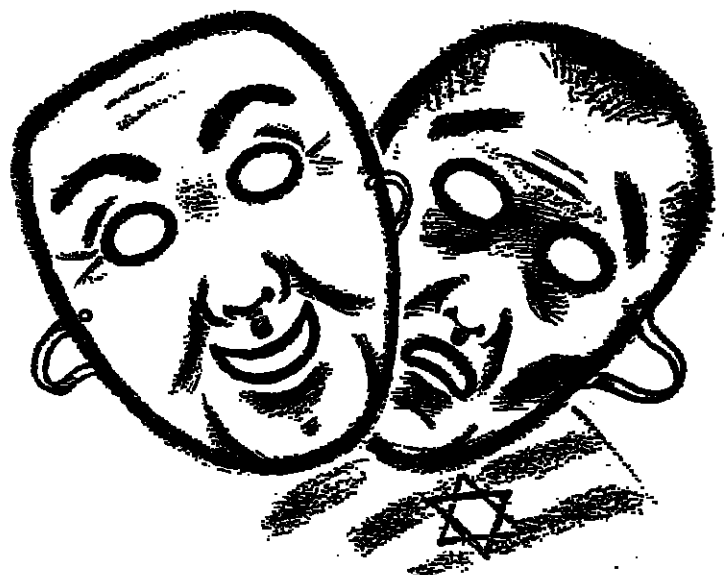
final stage of a dispute procedure would always be arbitration — under the auspices of ACAS or the Central Arbitration Commission. To prevent arbitrators "splitting the difference", pendulum arbitration, in which one or other bid must be chosen, would apply.

In the past, ministers have been reluctant to move towards a no-strike system, based on arbitration, essential services for fear of the consequences in public-sector pay rises. But because of privatization, ministers are no longer directly responsible for pay levels in certain public utilities; more will soon go the same way.

The GCHQ affair showed the difficulties that can result from lack of effective no-strike agreements in the public sector. There, the right to strike was eventually bought out. Had a system of no-strike arbitration been in place, the task could have been easier.

As the authors of the 1981 green paper argued: "Governments have a duty, when the interests of the community are put at risk, to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure essential services to essential goods and services are protected and the hardship inflicted on the community is limited." The Telecom strike provides a third opportunity to get the policy right. The author is general director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now



Waking the dead to revile the living

all these things, and many more, was changed, and is still changing, in the darkness cast by that black sun.

And throughout the play there is nothing — nothing — to suggest that even one of these tremendous and inescapable themes has impinged even on the mind of the author.

Before I continue, please pause and contemplate that fact. A writer, not wholly uninterested, takes a story which will continue to exercise the minds and feelings of men and women until, quite literally, the end of the world, and with it demonstrates that his mind is so limited, so confined, so worthless as an instrument of understanding, that every aspect and echo of that story escapes him entirely. Would you have thought that possible in any but the most ignorant, uneducated and brutish elements of our society?

Well, then, how is it possible? It is possible, indeed it is inevitable, because the author, incapable of recognizing unprompted anything of what I have listed, has a purpose which to him is plainly sufficient: if he reads this article, he will dismiss it without disturbing in any way the even banality of his mind, because his purpose fills his tiny horizon so completely that there is no room for anything else. And his purpose is to repeat the ancient rubric, *Delenda est Carthago*, in modern terms: Israel Must Go.

I do not want to go over ground already covered by others, but a few words of summary are, I

think, necessary. Mr Allen is on the hard left, of the bit (one has to specify, because there are many, and their numbers multiply daily) that is happy to use Stalinist disinformation, which he reproduces, unashamed, in his play. We learn that Ben-Gurion, Weizmann and the other principal founders of Israel, together with their underlings in Europe (who happily co-operated with the Nazis in the Final Solution), smiled upon the Holocaust, and deliberately blocked attempts to save more Jews from the gas-chambers, so that the world would be shocked into setting up a Jewish state; the state in question is, of course, itself little better than the Nazis in its racism. Mr Allen's ignorance, and implacable unwillingness to have his ignorance dispelled, have left his play littered throughout with inexcusable errors and horrible lies; there is no evidence that Mr Max Stafford-Clark, artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, was disturbed by this, and a good deal of evidence that he wasn't.

The language of the play is as crude as its objective; whether it would seem dramatic in performance I cannot say. That the anti-Semitism which oozes from it is the unconscious kind does not seem to me to go very far as an excuse, and oddly enough it is less of an excuse for one of Mr Allen's politics than for others, because it is the far left that insists on digging out such buried feelings so that the bearer of them can contemplate them by daylight; a course in

Racism Awareness (I am sure Brent Council would find him a place on one) seems urgently necessary if he is to understand what he has — at present unwittingly — done.

In this sorry tale there is one touch of consolation. So far, at any rate, the other Israel is Guilty of Everything lobby has been silent; not a word about *Perdition* has escaped Messrs Michael Adams, Christopher Mayhew, Dennis Walters, Andrew Faulds and the rest. It is, alas, no use hoping that they have realized how much they have contributed over the years to making Jim Allen possible by whipping the dogs of hate.

What follows? The play was withdrawn in circumstances that are still not clear, those in charge of the Royal Court seem to be anxious that there should be no full explanation. But that does not concern me greatly. What does concern me is what may now be the permanent suppression of the play. From what I have said about its character, it may be assumed that I believe suppression is the most condign fate it could suffer. I do not.

I reject suppression, however, on grounds other than the ones that have already been put forward; these are that if the play is never seen it will increase anti-Semitism rather than diminishing it, because people will believe, or be persuaded, that a cabal of Jews extinguished it lest the wickedness of Israel should be exposed, and that it must have been an uncommonly fine and well-written play to have provoked such wrath in its opponents, and that a playwright is not to be tested by the same criteria as a historian.

No; the play should not have been withdrawn, in my opinion, because free speech is indivisible. As I have said so often in other contexts, I believe that anything which may lawfully be said may actually be said. I have defended the rights of the National Front and Socialist Workers Party, those mirror-image twins of totalitarianism, to propagate their doctrines freely, while they remain (the proviso is obviously crucial) within the law. I have pointed out that free speech is for swine and liars as well as upright and honest men. I have insisted that any legally permissible view, however repugnant, is less dangerous promulgated than banned, and I would defend its promulgation even if the opposite were true. I have gloried in the central paradox of democracy, which is that it tolerates, and must continue to tolerate, the activities of those who wish to destroy it.

In all these beliefs I have lived, and I am minded to die in them; how then could I defend the suppression of this play? I cannot, which is not to say that if it had never been written it now should be. But it exists, and "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still." With heavy heart, I yet must say it: Let them have their play.

Patten plays the 'flip-side' in black Africa

As Christopher Patten, the Minister for Overseas Development, flies to southern Africa today he can afford to feel more confident of success than recent experience might suggest. The risk of a repetition of the humiliation suffered twice last year by Sir Geoffrey Howe looks comfortably low.

Since then no British minister responsible for foreign policy or aid has ventured into the region except Mrs Lynda Chalker, a Minister of State, who attended the funeral of President Machel of Mozambique last October.

As a representative of the much-ignored "second track" of British policy on southern Africa, Mr Patten can expect a better hearing than Sir Geoffrey.

It has not been generally recognized that the Government's refusal to apply comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa has a "flip-side". It is countered by substantial British support for the frontline states and their near neighbours.

Soviet, East German and Cuban help, might seem surprising. That the training programme has just been doubled is more so.

"We are attempting to increase the ability of the southern African countries to survive independently of South Africa," says Mr Patten.

His priority is to help reduce their dependence on South Africa's rail and road links, through which 85 per cent of their trade with the outside world passes. Britain is a major contributor to an alliance of donor and recipient governments called the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). In the last five years Britain has spent £560 million in SADCC countries. The risk that a sanctions-induced fortress mentality in Pretoria might result in the closure of South Africa's borders has increased the urgency of SADCC's schemes.

The top priority is the restoration of the Beira Corridor, named after the former Portuguese coastal outpost at the narrow "waist" of Mozambique. The port, along with the railway, road and pipeline linking it to Harare 370

miles away, have been repeatedly attacked by guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement. British-trained Mozambique troops will soon be patrolling the line alongside an estimated 6,000 Zimbabwean soldiers.

The northern port of Nacala and its railway link to Malawi have been regularly attacked too. The Mozambique government contracts out protection of the line to a British company, Defence Systems Ltd, which employs former SAS personnel. While conceding that protecting the line is a worthy objective, Mr Patten insists that no British taxpayers' money is used to pay DSI.

British aid to Mozambique has quadrupled in three years, but it is all earmarked for specific projects. In the southern tip of Mozambique a third railway links Maputo to Zimbabwe, but also to South Africa.

Zambia's priority is to secure the reopening of the Benguela railway, named after Angola's Atlantic port. The difficulties of securing the line amid Angola's endless civil war remain formidable and the chances of British

influence helping much look slim. Mr Patten says that Britain is not involved in this line.

His visit includes three days in Botswana for the SADCC meeting, followed by visits to Zimbabwe and Mozambique, where he could announce aid increases. It can do no harm to his prospects that he has chosen to leave Zambia to a future visit.

This "second track" of British policy may explain why Mrs Thatcher's sanctions arguments have found sympathy with four of the six black African governments most immediately concerned: Botswana, Mozambique and Swaziland — all bordering South Africa — and Lesotho, which is surrounded by it, are thought by Whitehall to agree with her. Zambia and Zimbabwe do not.

Her predictions that sanctions would harm black South Africans rather than Afrikaners, encourage repressive tendencies in Pretoria, and provoke threats of counter-sanctions against frontline states have been partially borne out since the US Congress imposed its will on President Reagan.

Andrew McEwen

T.E. Utley

Wily or stupid in Ulster?

There are two credible interpretations of the policies of successive British governments towards Northern Ireland since the present troubles began in the late 1960s. One is that these policies have been inspired by immense benevolence and intense stupidity, the second characteristic being chiefly displayed in the belief, shared by most Englishmen, that "insoluble problems" can always be "solved" if sensible men of goodwill get round a table and talk.

The alternative interpretation is that British policy has been inspired by a kind of maniacal subtlety, a quality on which the English political establishment also tends to pride itself. My own view is that the "stupid benevolence" theory is nearer the mark, but there is something to be said occasionally for giving the other hypothesis a airing.

It is conceivable that the Anglo-Irish Hillsborough agreement — that otherwise scarcely explicable phenomenon — was a brilliant device designed to enable us to disembarass ourselves of Northern Ireland at the earliest opportunity. Its first, predictable consequence was the total alienation of the Unionist community in Ulster. This has been excellently achieved — 400,000 of them have just petitioned the Queen against the Agreement — and, what is more, achieved so far without the cost of a major Protestant rebellion.

But slipped into the agreement is a "let-out" clause. The agreement says that if these tiresome warring tribes will get together and establish a power-sharing devolved government, anything which falls within the jurisdiction of that government will automatically be removed from the purview of the Anglo-Irish Inter-governmental Conference — the institution set up to enable London and Dublin to share between them, in practice if not in theory, the responsibility for governing the Six Counties.

According to the theory I am at present considering, wily Mr Hurd and fairly wily Mr King reasoned thus: the Ulster Protestants will be so furious about the Anglo-Irish Agreement that they will be willing, as they never have been before, to get into bed with Mr Hume and the SDLP in order to destroy it. They will accept power-sharing in the North as a lesser evil than an Anglo-Irish condominium. Ulster will be reconciled, it will be possible to reduce the military presence to normal garrison proportions and we shall all be home and dry. The disembarassing process would have been carried a long way and might even be continued to the point of total British withdrawal and the creation of an independent Ulster.

These fantastic hopes (if they exist at all) will have been encouraged by the latest development — a proposal by the Ulster Defence Association for a get-together of all the constitutional parties in Ulster designed to produce some sort of power-sharing arrangement. Now, the UDA is what *bien-pensant* journalists call "a very extreme

Protestant body". It is still lawful to belong to it, though its members are responsible for a good few murders. It came into being essentially as a vigilante force to give the Protestants the protection they believed themselves to lack from the security forces.

If such men are willing to contemplate power-sharing as a means of disposing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, is not that otherwise inexplicable instrument wholly justified? Does that not prove that the British government is not as silly as it looks?

I profoundly doubt that conclusion. What interests the UDA is exactly what interests all other more respectable Unionists in Ulster. It is, in short, control of security. Intrinsically, they have not an ounce of desire for self-government; they wish simply to be British, or at least not to be absorbed in a united Ireland. So, if the proposed conference were to succeed, it would have to be on the basis of giving the devolved government in Ulster control of the maintenance of public order — of the police and the Ulster Defence Regiment.

No paper guarantee for minority rights would be the smallest importance under such an arrangement. What the UDA is after is "a Protestant Parliament for a Protestant People". The only practicable way of achieving its objectives would be to progress from devolved government to the creation of an independent Ulster, probably with dominion status.

That certainly is one alternative, but the objections to it are overwhelming: it would certainly be unacceptable to the Republic, it would make the Catholic minority in the North extremely vulnerable and it would represent a total abandonment of responsibility by the British government. It would certainly not please the IRA.

The nearest approach to a "solution" of the Northern Irish "problem" now available to us is for the British government to resolve to govern the province as far as possible like any other part of the United Kingdom — unless and until it expresses a clear wish to be otherwise governed, a matter which should be put to the test of frequent referendums.

The existence of the Anglo-Irish Agreement inhibits Westminster from governing Northern Ireland at all. Whatever the British government does (whether it is intended to favour Protestants or Catholics) is now tainted at source in the eyes of most of the population because it is deemed to have been done at the behest of Dublin. In some way or other, the agreement in its present form must be disposed of.

The task of disposal will not be easy. It could be helped if Mr Haughey were to win the impending election in the Republic. To judge from his latest pronouncement, he is once again critical of the Hillsborough accord. The accord provides that either party may at any time seek a review of how the arrangement is working and how it could be improved. The British government should now ask for such a review.

Philip Howard

Half a mot! I'm doing my best

Most debates are a head-on clash between the righteously and the cloth-cared to the tune of the Anvil Chorus. On Friday night for a change the Folio Society literary dinner and debate contributed to sweetness and light.

Before a large audience of literati and polyglots in the Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City of London, Enoch Powell proposed and John Julius Norwich opposed the motion that even the best translations are not versions, but perversions, of the original.

With ice-cold intensity Mr Powell argued that in any work of literature there is an integral cohesion between the language and the content, which is necessarily lost when the language is changed. With teddy-bear charm Lord Norwich argued that in a perfect world we should all speak every language; but in our imperfect world, translations are necessary, and we should be grateful.

Everybody showed off his languages a bit. John Julius winning with *The Burial of Sir John Moore* in Russian, and *Jabberwocky* in macaronics (that poetic predecessor of Franglais).

It was a civilized and entertaining debate. But I really do not see the problem. They are both right. In the strict philosophical sense, of course, translation is literally impossible. There are no exact synonyms, even in English. "Gorse" and "furze" are nearly synonyms, but each carries its luggage of connotations. You give away which part of the country you come from by your choice of word. And you cannot substitute one for the other in Francis Thompson or other poetry without altering the poem.

When you translate into another language, the divergence between meanings and connotations widens. Remember the actor in *Les Enfants du Paradis* (surely on all our lists of the 10 best films for a desert island) playing Shakespeare in French. "De l'économie, Horace" is a translation of "Thrift, Horatio, thrift"; but it is a very funny one.

The marmoreal alexandines of Racine simply do not convert satisfactorily into English, as has

been demonstrated by recent translations for the London stage. On the other hand, Shakespeare turns well into German verse, the Schlegel and Tieck versions and others; but it is still different.

The question is much the same as whether it is possible to give an accurate report of anything. And the answer to that is that, in the extreme acceptance of the words, of course it isn't; except possibly by the Recording Angel at the Last Judgement, and even he may get writer's cramp.

Take one of the simplest events we try to report a speech. Even if you reported verbatim the speeches of Enoch Powell and John Julius Norwich the other night, it would still not be an exact report. It would be a translation of the spoken into the written word.

It leaves out emphasis and intonation, nudge and wink, the meaningful pause, the revolving arms of John Julius, the bristling eyebrows of Enoch. It leaves out the reactions of the audience. You can write "Applause" or "Uproar", but that is inadequate. It leaves out the connotations and implications carried on its back by every word used, the echoes and allusions, some of them going back 20 centuries. To give a full report of the War of the Words of the translators would take every page of today's *Times*, and it would still be nowhere near an exact report. And most events are vastly more complicated to report than a speech.

An exact report, like an exact translation, is an impossibility and a contradiction in terms. But that does not stop us trying. We know what is meant by a fair report, an accurate report, a brilliant report. This is a brilliant report. There is no such thing as a perfect translation. But we need our good translators to open windows on to other literatures and cultures for us.

The assembled intelligentsia voted by a whisker in support of Enoch Powell's motion. But, thank Hermes, god of translation, that is not going to stop them trying to perform the useful and charming miracle of turning literature into other words.



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IN DURANCE VILE

While the fate of Mr Terry Waite remained obscure last night, the circumstances in which he flew to Lebanon two weeks ago have somewhat clarified. It would seem that he undertook his latest mission against Foreign Office advice and in full knowledge of the risks that were entailed. That he went there nonetheless is testament to his courage and his faith. But his family and friends now need as much — or more — of both in hoping for his swift and safe return.

The time has passed in Lebanon for men like Mr Waite. This was apparent some time ago — and was reflected in the advice given by the British Ambassador in Beirut, Mr John Gray, at a meeting between the two men in London before Christmas. If further proof were needed, then it was provided at the weekend by Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine — who demanded the release of 400 Muslim prisoners in Israel in return for the lives of four Americans. Such a demand cannot be met, nor indeed seriously considered.

On previous errands of mercy, Mr Waite has had the advantage, for most of the time at least, of dealing with heads of government. But dealing with the authorities in modern Lebanon is like negotiating with the general secretary of the TUC during a wildcat strike. Power has passed elsewhere, and in the process it has been divided among an ever-growing number of warring factions. Hostage taking and trading have long been indigenous in Lebanon — and they have flourished in the prevailing state of anarchy. While Mr Waite might be negotiating the re-

lease of one prisoner in one place, another might be seized elsewhere — and so it goes on.

Cruel though it may sound and hard though it must be, the only safe long-term tactic is to do nothing. Hostages need to be fed, housed, sometimes transported and always safeguarded, if only from the other tribal groupings in the country. Unless they can be bartered for political or financial gain, they are thus an encumbrance to those who take them. The only way to discourage these from doing so is to ensure that they do not profit from their crime.

Mr Waite is playing into their hands, if only by showing evidence of the concern of us at home. So too is the US Sixth Fleet, now assembling in the eastern Mediterranean, if it is there as a show of strength rather than for some serious military purpose. While the gunmen of Lebanon can command the attention of the Western media and the White House, they are half way to achieving what they seek. This at least is how it must seem to them.

It is tempting even to call for the withdrawal of the seven British diplomats who remain at the Beirut embassy and who must also be considered in some danger. But if Britain is to remain involved in the Middle East, it is sensible that we keep representatives on the ground in a country so full of politics and intrigue. From an intelligence perspective alone, there is some value to be gained from keeping one's ear to the ground when so many dangerous groups are operating there. That presence is still more crucial since our decision to break off diplomatic relations with Syria. And with

166 British nationals still in Lebanon, the Ambassador and his staff still have a consular role to play even if they have argued the wisdom of withdrawal.

Is there anything else we can do? While the folly of American negotiations with Iran has been only too painfully exposed, Britain should demand from Tehran that all possible influence should be exerted over Shia groups holding hostages in Lebanon. But it is very questionable whether even this indirect approach by a country so heavily involved in Islam would work to anyone's advantage in Lebanon today.

In respect of Mr Waite, a heavy burden of responsibility must rest with the Druze leader, Mr Walid Jumblatt, into whose safe-keeping Mr Waite was entrusted. To be fair, Mr Jumblatt would seem to have acknowledged this — by offering himself as a substitute hostage and by personally taking charge of the search for the British churchman. The second of these two courses sounds the more promising because negotiations in Lebanon today are usually conducted through friends of friends and a succession of contacts. Mr Jumblatt is at least heavily involved in the political jungle of the Levant and is in a better position than most to make these essential contacts.

But the safest way to treat Lebanon just now is to keep one's distance from it. If that is the lesson that has been learned as a result of Mr Waite's mission, his effort will not have been in vain. Meanwhile, we must continue to pray that he will confound the worst predictions by coming home safely and soon.

GREENWICH LEAN TIME

The selection of Miss Deirdre Wood as the Labour candidate for the pending Greenwich by-election brings into focus issues of pivotal importance to the general election which is now also looming.

Last week, Mr John Banham's valedictory report from the Audit Commission pointed to the financial time bombs ticking away under the high-spending Labour-controlled local authorities who are bent on defying the government. In an implied criticism of the government's indiscriminate assault on the "leaky" municipal left, Mr Banham also pointed out that there was no easy equation between Labour control and fiscal irresponsibility.

The example he chose was Greenwich. A Labour-controlled borough (and a Labour parliamentary seat) might be imagined to be the scene of deteriorating administration and local services. According to the Audit Commission, however, Greenwich was high marks for efficiency and fiscal cleanliness.

The Greenwich Labour Party have now selected, in Miss Wood, a candidate who represents the very model of modern municipal socialism. She is a former GLC councillor and sits for Greenwich on the ILEA. Her credentials include being one of the group of metropolitan Labour figures who invited a Provisional Sinn Féin delegation to England last year to address Labour councils. She won the nomination ahead of an ex-MP and against another candidate who was apparently the favoured choice of the party leadership.

Miss Wood is a harbinger of the shift to the left — exaggerated by both opposing parties, but real nevertheless — which will substantially change the parliamentary Labour Party after the next election, irrespective of the overall result.

The reasons for the com-

prehensive nature of this change are obscured by the vehemence of the rhetorical war being fought with gusto about the activities of the wilder Labour-controlled councils. Labour has not come to control many big city councils by accident or by sleight of hand. Their electoral success and the roots sunk by hard-left factions in local parties is connected to the decline in standards of living — a remorseless downward trend continuing through national and local governments of all colours — which has been more marked in such places than in any other part of the country.

The eight boroughs singled out by Banham spend up to 50 per cent over the national average for expenditure on education. Yet it is poor education which is helping to condemn young entrants to the labour markets in these areas to an increased likelihood that they will be unemployed. It is also in such areas that bulldozers have destroyed human communities and replaced them with expensive slums. The Audit Commission talks of the "urban underclass."

This is a fertile breeding ground for the left, and the social and economic decay of some inner and outer London boroughs goes a long way to explaining Labour's unusual strength in these areas. It also goes some way to demonstrate why the government's abolition of the GLC was misconceived if it was an attempt to "solve" the problem of left-wing councillors. The left's roots went deeper than simply a hijack of the Labour group on the relatively powerless GLC. Once, Sinn Féin might have been invited over by the GLC's Ken Livingstone; after the demise of the GLC, they were invited by a collective of London boroughs.

This state of affairs holds lessons for both the Conser-

vative and Labour leaderships. The Conservatives, excited by the prospect of left lunacies to exploit, are in danger of forgetting that their opponents retain some strength in the local authority world when Labour's national fortunes are shaky. Municipal politics have launched the careers of David Blunkett and Ken Livingstone, both of them now pillars of the uneasy and unstable alliance in the centre of the party which is dedicated to keeping the hard left quiescent — at least until after the next election. The Labour administration at the GLC, despite spending relatively small sums of money on weird innovations, won widespread support for its public transport strategy and sympathy for the high-handed treatment it received from the GLC abolition.

But despite these advantages, Mr Kinnock cannot contemplate the scene with much pleasure. The financial mess which the dihard councils have created for themselves will take years of expense, wrangling and accountability to clear up. Miss Wood's candidacy raises the profile of the left at a moment when Mr Kinnock would most like to lower it in pursuit of the nervous voters of the centre. While the most offensive of the new local authority initiatives are often the least expensive, that does not in the least diminish their impact on working class communities in Labour's heartland — as the grassroots rebellion against Haringey Council's "positive image" policy on homosexuality shows.

After an avalanche of publicity — not all of it accurate — devoted to such repugnant nonsense and much else like it, Mr Kinnock finally nerved himself to criticise the zealotry of some unspecified Labour councils. Whether he will actually be able to do anything about it is quite another question.

Given for life in a society in which devices and systems based on microelectronics are commonplace and pervasive.

Not only has the introduction of computers into schools done a good job in terms of the explicit intention, but I believe that it has also incidentally improved the quality of teaching and, more importantly, has enhanced learning.

To put it positively, the fact that 20 per cent of secondary school headmasters endorse that view shows a considerable unconvinced benefit from the programme. It would have been more helpful to be told by your Education Correspondent what the report in question has to say on the

extent to which pupils are being given the experience which will prepare them for a world in which microelectronics is commonplace and pervasive.

For example, with an average of 14 computers per school, how much time does the average pupil spend using a computer, in what subject areas, on what sort of applications? How many teachers have been trained, for what length of time?

The answers to these questions would show that much has been achieved, although of course much remains to do. Yours sincerely, GEOFFREY HUBBARD, 3 Fieldway House, Fieldway, Crescent, N5, January 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Takeover Panel's achievements

From Mr John Hull

Sir, On January 16, in your leading article, entitled "Markets and morality", you say, with regard to the present regulation of financial markets in the context of takeover bids, that the only weakness so far exposed lies in the City takeover code and its application. This is both unfair to the Takeover Panel and indicative of a lack of understanding of the panel's role and achievements as a self-regulatory body over many years.

To measure its achievements it is necessary to cast one's mind back to the period immediately leading up to the panel's establishment in 1968 — those halcyon days when everything was legitimate provided the law permitted it.

In those days an offeror could launch a bid for any percentage of the capital of a target company — whether more or less than 50 per cent. He could obtain acceptances for, say 30 per cent, declare his offer unconditional and bribe the remaining shareholders into his net with a higher offer not available to the unwary acceptors.

He could purchase at a large premium an actual or effective controlling interest from an existing controlling group and leave the other shareholders with nothing except the hope that their new master would be kind to them when dividend time came round. Or, alternatively, he could offer them some exotic form of Chinese paper — untried, untested paper of doubtful value and even more doubtful value.

What heady days they were. The offeror could purchase offshore company shares on or off the Stock Exchange — discriminately, selectively — in any amounts at any price without regard to the value of his bid. He or his associates could buy and sell both offeror and offshore company shares until their hands were raw with the good work — without disclosure and under a blanket of nominee names.

And what about the offeree directors, were they abandoned in this free-booting era to the tender mercies of the raiding buccaneer? Indeed they were not.

The extravagant profit forecast, unvetted, unsupported by independent accountants, was staple diet in those days for the offshore shareholders.

Sizewell report

From Mr John Blake

Sir, Sir Frank Layfield, in his report (details, January 27) on the Sizewell B inquiry, expressed the view that, if consent is to be given, the disadvantages of risks to health and safety, and of environmental damage to the locality, "must be outweighed by anticipated economic benefits for the nation."

He concluded that on economic grounds the project should go ahead and that a new power station is required to meet capacity and should be approved in the near future, and because "it would on my central assumptions reduce the costs of generation."

In reaching his judgement that there was a 75 per cent chance that Sizewell B would be cost-saving, he relied on the National Coal Board's projection, made in 1983, that the international price of coal would rise to \$75 a tonne by the year 2000 (1982 prices). But time has moved on.

In their memorandum to the House of Commons Energy Committee last January the NCB stated that they expected the international price of coal in 2000 to be in the range of \$45-55 (1985 prices). I understand that they have since revised those figures

The prudent and prescient board would also have kept a parcel of unissued shares by for just such a rainy day and these could be used as consideration for an attractive acquisition, the opportunity for which had fortuitously arisen during the currency of the bid.

Options could be granted, assets could be disposed of, contracts of the utmost importance to the wellbeing of the company, and disagreeable to the offeror, could be entered into.

These events all occurred, some more frequently than others, before the establishment of the panel and the introduction of the City code. They do not happen now. Every one of the actions I have mentioned would now be a breach of the code. The law may not prohibit them but the code says "No". And they do not happen.

The code fills in the gaps left by the law. No code of conduct such as that administered by the panel — certainly no statutorily based body of rules — could ever cover every situation arising in a takeover bid.

What is important is that, where gaps in the rules are shown to exist, changes should be rapidly made to close those gaps. This the panel, because of its constitution and method of operation, is uniquely able to do.

The Guinness affair may or may not involve criminal action; it may also involve breaches of the code. It is the function of the prosecuting authorities to enforce the criminal law. It is the function of the panel to take appropriate action against any organisation or person who appears to have breached the rules or spirit of the code. The panel's record leaves no doubt that it will be diligent and fearless in so doing.

No system can ever be perfect — there will always be an element of closing stable doors after a particular horse has bolted — but the onus is on those who seek change to show that any alternative method of regulation would be an improvement on the system so successfully administered by the panel for nearly 20 years.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HULL (Director-General, City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers, 1972-74), 33 Edwards Square, W8, January 19.

downwards by \$5. In real terms, therefore, the NCB have now almost halved their 1983 forecast.

Indeed, the NCB declared in their memorandum that they would not expect to invest in a colliery unable to produce at an operating cost of less than 150p/GJ (gigajoule), and would consider a colliery unable to operate at less than 165p/GJ a candidate for closure (1985 prices). These figures equate to about \$47 and \$52 respectively at 1982 prices.

So the house that Sir Frank built rests on sand. Far from being cost-saving, Sizewell B would increase the system cost of electricity generation.

If the secretary of state intends to approve a PWR (pressurised water reactor) at Sizewell he must explain to the House of Commons and to the people of this country how he justifies such a decision in the light of these changed fuel price projections and how he reconciles the use of such widely differing investment criteria in two complementary and interdependent nationalised industries.

Yours faithfully, JOHN BLAKE, Chairman, Executive Committee, Town and Country Planning Association, 17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1, January 28.

Chiswick House

From Mr John Harris

Sir, No one disputes the lack of patronage of modern design in this country. However, surely it is as dispiriting for Mrs Manser to recommend (January 20) that Chiswick House be furnished with commissioned modern pieces as it is for reproductions to be made in lieu of the Duke of Devonshire's natural disinclination to give back to Chiswick the furniture that once graced its rooms?

The danger, and it is omnipresent, is being forced by financial stringencies to do it cheap, and nothing looks worse than cheap reproduction furniture.

If Mrs Manser really cares about the encouragement of modern design, she should campaign for the Government to take a lead, and for the Property Services Agency to initiate a programme of commissioning modern furniture for many of its public rooms or for its executive offices that are now, frankly, furnished with modern junk.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HARRIS, 16 Limerston Street, SW10.

Playwright's defence

From Mr Jim Allen

Sir, Over the years I have been accustomed to defending my work after it has been shown, with *Perdition*, I am exposed to criticism fuelled by Zionist historians and the public are excluded from the debate.

Andrew Sinclair (January 27) leans on the assertions of two Zionist academics, Martin Gilbert and David Cesarani, to substantiate his claim that *Perdition* used half-truths and scurrilous statements. He then compares me with Goebbels and Beria. He fires his projectiles from a gun loaded with Zionist blanks.

Like a man shouting fire in a crowded cinema, Gilbert has, on television and in newspapers,

quoted the magical figure of 60 historical inaccuracies. Yet to this day, despite constant requests, he has refused to specify exactly where in the script these "inaccuracies" occur. In *The Daily Telegraph* he even referred to a scene which did not exist in the play. But no matter, Gilbert is an historian, and what he says is accepted.

It would be interesting to know where Andrew Sinclair got his copy of the script from? Eighteen months ago the Royal Court sent two first drafts to the Institute of Jewish Affairs and David Cesarani. Why not to a non-Zionist academic?

The first draft of any script is merely the basic architecture and, as a writer, Sinclair knows that re-writing is part of the painful

Success and the power to survive

From the Editor of The Annual Register

Sir, Mr James Cox's observation (January 21) that the eminent appear to live longer than the rest of us is fully borne out by experience with the obituary section of *The Annual Register* of world events.

From the deaths reported each year, we select those of actual or former heads of state or government and persons of international fame in various walks of life, mainly (apart from politics) the arts and sciences, religion, armed services, sport and world-wide business. They number annually some 60 internationally distinguished figures.

Of the 57 provisionally selected for the 1986 volume, two were over 100 years old, 14 in their 90s, 19 in their 80s, 14 in their 70s, three in their 60s and five in their 50s, including Olof Palme, who was assassinated.

Yet, among those men and women who lived long beyond the normal expectation of life, some had spent years in gaols or prison camps or endured other great hardships; a number had spent active service in World War I or other wars.

Surely the explanation is simple. The power to survive physically is close kin to the power to survive mentally and competitively. Both imply a quality of mental toughness and determination, as well as physical resilience, needed to overcome a host of hazards that include diseases, wounds, rivalries, setbacks, failures and all the other changes and chances of this mortal life. Top men and women are essentially the survivors.

Yours faithfully, HARRY V. HODSON, Editor, *The Annual Register*, 18 Northumberland Avenue, WC2.

Derelict land

From Mr Anthony Steen, MP for South Hants (Conservative)

Sir, The Government must be congratulated on its success in getting rid of derelict public land (report, January 20).

However, whilst 45,000 acres have been sold since the first register appeared in 1981, there are still 99,968 acres left, and at the present rate this will not have disappeared by the year 2000, by which time more public land will have found its way on to the register. And there are a further 200,000 acres of dormant, derelict and vacant land not on the register because it evades the Government's present criteria.

In addition to forcing public authorities to rid themselves of surpluses, the current planning process must be changed, since it is this which creates unused public land in the first place, through fragmentation of farm land on the urban fringe and through the demolition of high density housing in the inner and outer city in favour of low density, just to mention two examples.

It is the effect of the planning process itself which creates dereliction. Vacant public land is the creature of the planners. That is the nettle which needs to be grasped for the register's function to become redundant. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY STEEN, House of Commons, January 22.

Channel 4's success

From Mr Brian Young

Sir, Woodrow Wyatt (feature, January 24) is one of many in knowing that Channel 4 has been a great success; so he is, I trust, one of few in thinking that the Conservatives would win popularity by offering to destroy the basis of that success.

It took eight years, from 1971, to persuade governments that the way to extend television's range and improve its quality was by making the fourth channel complementary to ITV and not competitive with it.

The advertisers, understandably, fought against this claim. They argued, as Woodrow Wyatt now does, that legal requirements and dictates from the centre could produce equally good effects. No one who looks closely at the way television works has ever shared that opinion.

It is its structure which makes possible Channel 4's success. Viewers, including Wyatt, value this success. Proposals for wrecking it will not be popular.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN YOUNG, Hill End, Woodhill Avenue, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, January 24.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 2 1872

Little time was lost in extending Prussian military discipline to the southern States which had after the defeat of France been incorporated in the German Empire only in January, 1871. Our Prussian Correspondent was Carl Abel, a German Egyptologist who was considered to write English like a native.

THE GERMAN EMPIRE

(From Our Prussian Correspondent.)

BERLIN, Jan. 30

While officers and men have had quite enough of war and its mournful experience, a thirst for glory seems to have seized on the youth of Prussia. At every admissible age they are pouring into the cadet institutions in unparalleled numbers, and many a form in the grammar schools has been lately abandoned by youthful recruits, who, but for the laurels of 1870, would never have contemplated taking the field so early in life. Many a family who meant to devote their offspring to the peaceful avocations of law or commerce have to contemplate the prospect of some day seeing the willful deserter girt with the silver sash or decked with the coveted shoulder-knot — the distinction of the higher grades. Many a mother who, as mothers will, dreamt of beholding her sedate favourite in the pulpit, arrayed in the reverend garb of the Church, is obliged to acknowledge that, after all, he may not look so had in spurs and with a clanking sword hanging at his side.

A somewhat analogous movement is going on in the South. There the profession of arms receives fresh lustre from the minor contingents being embodied with the Imperial host, and additional advantage from a considerable increase of pay accompanying the great political change. A peculiarly interesting feature in some of the smaller Principalities results from the contact of their easy-going institutions with the keen, prompt and severe discipline of Prussia. In Württemberg, for instance, though animated with the native ardour of the race, its forces did excellent service in the war, a complete re-modelling of the regimental routine has yet been found indispensable.

Berlin is in a terrible state of agitation. The chronic feud between the two rival prima donnas of His Majesty's Opera has become acute, and has led to the instant resignation of one. Thus runs the fearful story as far as it can be gathered from contemporary chronicles: On the 27th inst. *Figaro* was being performed before a crowded audience. Enter Frau Lucra, greeted with applause, which is usual, but — which is most unusual — hissed likewise. Resolute as ever, the fiery little cantatrice immediately approaches the footlights, and saying in her clear, ringing voice "This is most impudent!", quits the stage. The curtain falls, and only after prolonged and boisterous solicitations on the part of the public, is it raised again. This time Frau Lucra and Frau Mallinger are both together on the stage. Once more Frau Lucra advances and offers a sentiment — "I have done no wrong, and therefore do not mean to submit to gratuitous insult."

After this little by-play the performance continues amid enthusiastic applause. But the next day an awful denouement was to ensue. It is difficult for the veracious annalist to dive to the bottom of the deep well of truth, especially in matters theatrical; but something seems to have occurred which caused Frau Mallinger to suspect that she had been changed by her rival with having played a part on the preceding evening not only on the stage, but also in the house. Accordingly both ladies incontinently resigned office. Frau Mallinger was so determined that she would not be appeased, and actually insisted upon her dismissal. As to Frau Lucra negotiations with her are still pending. It is fearful to contemplate what will be the fate of Berlin with either of these resonant luminaries withdrawn.

Multiplying magpies

From Mr J. W. West

Sir, The increase in the magpie population to which Mr Bromley refers (January 26) is nothing new. About 25 years ago, perhaps, when the late Major C.S. Jarvis was writing "Notes for Country Life," he once remarked that it was formerly the practice to cross yourself whenever you saw a magpie; but, he added, with the numbers now to be seen when driving along country roads, to do so would probably end you up in the ditch.

Yours faithfully, JOHN W. WEST, 6 Weydown Court, Haslemere, Surrey.

Pound of flesh

From Mr Paul Gatch

Sir, Your "On this day" item of January 21, "The feeding of schoolboys", reminds me that one morning, 57 years ago, I found myself on my way to the Headmaster's study. His wife, a finely proportioned and formidable lady, was speaking on the phone to the town, Shrewsbury.

I could not avoid overhearing her authoritative tones as she shouted: "Is that the butcher? Right, well you please send me three pounds of your best rump-steak, and 44 pounds of boys' meat." I still enjoyed all my days at the Schools.

Yours faithfully, PAUL GOTCH, 15a Coppe Hill, Wimbledon, SW20.

Dr. J. W. West

Executive Editor
Kenneth FleetSTOCK MARKET
(Change on week)

FT 30 Share
1441.0 (+15.1)
FT-SE 100
1808.3 (+13.0)
Bargains
34168 (43119)
USM (Datastream)
141.12 (+1.94)

THE POUND
(Change on week)

US Dollar
1.5120 (-0.0135)
W German mark
2.7685 (-0.0132)
Trade-weighted
68.5 (-0.4)

US NOTEBOOK

A stronger
hand for
moderatesFrom Maxwell Newton
New York

The December trade figures, taken with the revised November statistics, will be making the Federal Reserve feel better about the outlook. The drop in the trade deficit in November and December did not materially alter the picture of a stable current account deficit provided by the fourth-quarter national income figures.

But one consequence will be to cut some ground from under the protectionists in Congress, as the Fed leadership has been expressing public concern over the possibility of protectionist laws. The drop in the trade deficit will, through a weakening of the protectionist stance, enhance the prospects of a moderate Fed policy.

The US-EEC accommodation over Spain will also help to defuse protectionism in America and thus strengthen the hand of those in the Fed who would prefer not to have a tighter policy.

An additional solace to the Fed will be the money figures for the past two weeks, which have recorded a total drop in money M1 of more than \$13 billion.

The sharp rise in dollar futures on Friday will also help the Fed to feel better about the monetary situation in the United States. The bond market reacted with scepticism, marking both cash and futures down slightly on fears that the US economic growth rate will accelerate on the better trade figures.

Such fears are largely groundless. The fourth-quarter gross national product already incorporates the picture painted by the revised trade figures. These have confirmed what we already knew. Nor do they indicate a major improvement in the trade deficit trend.

The essence of the revised November trade deficit and the preliminary December figures is that they confirm the US trade deficit is not drastically worsening.

Between October and December, when the trade deficit fell from \$14.7 billion to \$10.7 billion, imports fell from \$34.3 billion to \$29.1 billion (or by 15 per cent) while exports fell from \$19.6 billion to \$18.4 billion, or by 6 per cent.

For the financial markets the improvement in the trade deficit remains a plus, although you would not have thought so from an inspection of the grudging, negative reaction of the bond market on Friday. Happily, the deregulated bond market exists to keep the Central Bank and the Administration honest. This is a role it played fully on Friday.

Action on ITC

Nine London metal brokers will this week issue a writ against the 22 signatory states behind the insolvent International Tin Council claiming losses and damages.

Kuwaiti move

Kuwait has implemented a crude oil export price of \$16.67 a barrel, in line with the Opec agreement to return to fixed prices.

RESULTS

● TODAY - Interims: Textured Jersey. Finals: Securicor, Warner Estate.
● TOMORROW - Interims: Howard Shuttering, Meat Trade Suppliers, Property Security Investment Trust, Rodine, Phoenix Property and Finance, Union Discount.
● WEDNESDAY - Interims: Hambro Currency Fund, Victory Products, Wintrust. Finals: Bank Leumi (UK), Union Discount.
● THURSDAY - Interims: Aerospace Engineering, Mid Wynd International Investment Trust, Personal Computers. Finals: Aaronson Bros, Goode Durrant & Murray Group.
● FRIDAY - Interims: Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers.

Bank to dethrone ruling clique
Big shake-up
at Morgan

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Morgan Grenfell, the troubled investment banking and securities group, will today announce big changes in its management structure, including many new appointments, in the wake of the review into its management structure by the Cato Committee.

The committee's report was sent to the Bank of England on Friday and will be the basis for discussions - likely to start early next week - between Morgan and the Bank. Reflecting the gravity with which the Bank is treating events at Morgan, the review has gone straight to the review by the Bank Governor, who insisted on seeing an interim draft by the end of January. A copy has also gone to Mr Rodney Galpin, the Bank director of banking supervision.

The committee, headed by Lord Catto, Morgan's chairman, was set up three weeks ago as an internal review of the group's management structures after revelations stemming from the Guinness scandal.

Today's changes in structure and management at Morgan have already been cleared

with the Bank, ahead of the submission of other parts of the report. The changes are expected to give greater scope for younger employees to be involved in management and decision-making at Morgan. The group has recently been criticized for allowing a small number of older employees to rule the group without the involvement of others.

"We have had a lot of talks with the staff over this," said Sir Peter Carey, chairman of the merchant banking arm and a member of the Cato Committee. "There will be stronger reporting lines from the different areas of the group to the central executive committee and the group board."

"There will be more outlets for younger people into the policy-making areas which involve a change in the structure as well as a number of new appointments. We are not just shuffling around existing personnel."

According to Morgan, the Cato Committee review is "not a whitewash or a witch-hunt" as far as the Guinness affair was concerned, but was a necessary step after two years of rapid expansion.

The review could, however,

uncover further misdemeanours by Morgan employees if any have been committed. It is being conducted in the light of evidence discovered by the Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into Guinness and the internal inquiry conducted by Mr George Law, Morgan's compliance officer.

The Bank has recently intervened decisively in the wake of the Guinness scandal to limit the loss of confidence in the City and individual banks involved in the affair. It was instrumental in securing the resignation of Mr Christopher Reeves, chief executive, and Mr Graham Walsh, head of corporate finance, from Morgan, and of Lord Spens as managing director of Henry Ansbacher where he was in charge of corporate finance.

Meanwhile, speculation was continuing that Lloyds Bank was interested in bidding for Morgan, with encouragement from the Bank of England.

Lloyds said it would not comment on market rumours. It is understood, however, that the Bank is not actively looking for a larger institution to help Morgan out of its troubles by taking it over.

Government may
sell BP stakeBy David Smith
Our Economics Correspondent

An early sale of part of the Government's stake in British Petroleum is essential if the Treasury is to meet its privatization target for 1987/88.

The £4.75 billion target for this year is unlikely to be hit, and the present programme of asset sales for the next financial year is £2 billion below the official target of £5 billion.

A major element in the credibility of the Government's borrowing targets will be the ability to hit ambitious goals for privatization proceeds over the next few years.

The Treasury is likely to sell its remaining 31.7 per cent stake in British Petroleum, worth about £4.5 billion, split between the 1987/88 and 1988/89 financial years, in order to bridge the privatization gap.

Mr Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, announced in the Commons last week that the Government would be taking its £750 million repayment of loan stock from British Gas in the present financial year.

The announcement came as some surprise in the City, because of the recent good run of figures for government

borrowing. Analysts had expected the Chancellor to defer the repayment of the British Gas loan until 1987/88 as a result of the healthy borrowing position this year.

However, the repayment of the loan this year is necessary to avoid an embarrassing missed target for privatization. Even with the £750 million Treasury officials said that this year's privatization proceeds were likely to be only £4.34 billion, nearly £400 million below the official £4.75 billion target.

This missed target, while of relatively little importance to the overall fiscal sums, has come in spite of the stock market boom, which should have raised overall proceeds above the target.

For 1987/88, £1.62 billion will be received from the second payment on British Gas shares, £800 million from Rolls-Royce, £410 million from the second payment on British Airways shares and £500 million from the sale of the British Airports Authority.

The total, £3.3 billion, is well below the £5 billion target. Some of the gap will be made up by a second redemption of British Telecom shares.

PRIVATIZATION PROCEEDS

	1986/87 £ bn		1987/88 £ bn
Issue		Issue	
British Telecom (3rd call)	1.09	British Gas (2nd call)	1.62
British Gas	1.20	Rolls-Royce	0.41
BT Preference shares	0.20	BT Preference shares	0.5
British Airways	0.45	British Airways	0.41
British Gas debt	0.75	British Gas debt	0.25
		British Airports	0.5
Total	4.34	Total	4.08

Source: Treasury

Architects' cover

By Alison Eadie

Architects have become the latest group of professionals to turn to self-insurance against negligence claims because of the high price and shrinking cover offered by the traditional insurance market.

Certain premiums have tripled in the last three years.

The Wren Insurance Association has been licensed as an insurer by the Department of Trade and Industry.

It is a mutual insurance company formed initially by 28 of Britain's top architectural firms with a combined annual fee income of £130 million. It will be managed by Tindall, Riley.

Wren will provide comprehensive professional indemnity cover up to £5 million per firm per claim. It will generate premium income of £5 million a year initially.

Auditors
fall out
on type of
regulation

By Carol Fergusson

Accountants disagree over how their profession should be regulated. This is revealed in the large number of submissions to the Department of Trade and Industry in response to its consultative document, *Regulation of Auditors. Implementation of the EC Eighth Company Law Directive*.

Firms and their professional bodies are responding individually. Some support a general auditing council, others oppose to one and some support regulation by the existing professional bodies.

But the profession agrees that rotation of auditors after a fixed term would be expensive and could harm the quality of the audit. As Price Waterhouse points out: "The risk of failure is higher within the first two years of a new auditor taking up his appointment."

The Hundred Group, a society of chartered accountants who are also finance directors of some of the larger firms in the London area, polled its members and received 50 replies.

More than 78 per cent opposed the restriction of advisory services provided by the auditor to his clients; 84 per cent opposed rotation of auditing firms; 56 per cent supported statutory audit committees of non-executive directors for listed companies.

A survey by Price Waterhouse polled 122 companies of all sizes and interviewed 25 fund management institutions. Three-quarters of the participants had accountability qualifications.

Of the companies and institutions, 84 per cent favoured the system of self-regulation by the chartered institutes while 32 per cent of the funds were concerned about the independence of firms auditing companies in which they hold shares.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland sent a questionnaire to the chairman of the top 1,000 British companies. The results are discussed in Analysis on page 24.



Les Harris on the new Matchless G80, hand-built in Devon

Roaring back: the
mighty Matchless

The first Matchless motorcycle to be built since the collapse of the company in 1968 was unveiled yesterday. The Matchless - a great favourite with generations of motorcyclists - has been produced by Mr Les Harris, who saved the Triumph marque from extinction two years ago.

Mr Harris, who has been turning out 80 Triumph 750C Bonneville and Tigers from his Newton Abbot factory in Devon, and exporting them all over the world, said: "We can sell every bike we produce - to Europe, Australia, even Japan."

At the weekend, the machine was flown out to the Cincinnati Motorcycle Show in the US for its international debut.

The new Matchless, the G80, which will be hand-built in Newton Abbot and create about 28 jobs, is described as an "up-to-date bike with British classic looks".

Mr Harris, aged 47, said: "We are not trying to take on the Japanese in any way; that would be impossible."

Convenient: Neil Stapley and NatWest dealing screen

NatWest may widen its
computer share dealing

By Ray Heath

National Westminster Bank's computerized share-dealing service for British Gas shareholders, now being offered to British Airways investors, may be extended to standard stock market transactions, with instant crediting or debiting of customers' accounts. It would offer investors one of the most convenient share-dealing systems in the country.

Although a lot of work on systems will still have to be done, National Westminster Stockbroker Services' (NWSS) managing director, Mr Neil Stapley, believes the response to the British Gas arrangement justifies the bank in spending time and money researching a full-scale service.

Using touch-sensitive computer screens in 245 branches around the country, Sid and his friends carried out 140,000 British Gas transactions involving 120 million shares within six weeks. The bank said it could show a price, execute a deal and issue a contract note or cheque within two-and-a-half minutes.

The speed of development could depend on the introduction of the Stock Exchange's own automatic system of matching small buyers and small sellers, the SEAQ Automatic Execution Facility, which is expected to be operational at the end of this

year or early next and will offer deals in blocks of 1,000 shares. But NWSS is not yet committing itself to this.

There will also be the implications of the Financial Services Bill and the Stock Exchange rules to be considered as well as the potential day-to-day demand when Sid is not queuing up to sell the latest government flotation.

US 'attempts to
call G5 talks
on dollar crisis'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, was due to leave Washington yesterday on the first leg of a week-long journey which is expected to result in a new attempt by the Group of Five nations to stabilize leading currencies.

The trip could be the most important of Mr Baker's career as Treasury Secretary. It is regarded as a critical test of the US international economic leadership he sought to re-establish in 1985 with the Plaza Accord to devalue the dollar.

The first leg of the trip to Saudi Arabia had been planned for a long time. But it was unclear yesterday whether the mission will also include a G-5 meeting in Paris next weekend.

The assistant US Treasury Secretary, Mr David Mulford, was said to be in Europe negotiating the framework for the meeting but no date has been set. Officials of the G-5 nations said last week the meeting would be pointless unless a pre-planned agreement could be reached and announced at the conclusion.

Over the past two weeks, the United States has been accused by Japan and West Germany of playing a dangerous game with the dollar which has raised hostilities against the Reagan Administration and damaged Mr Baker's credibility.

The abrupt drop in the dollar, after remarks by unnamed White House officials that it must go lower to cure the record US trade deficit, was seen as a heavy-handed attempt by Mr Baker to force West Germany and Japan to stimulate their domestic economies.

In testimony before Congress and in televised appear-

ances, Mr Baker denied the allegations. But neither the markets nor important US allies believed him.

More compelling was the message from the Administration that it intended to renew pressure on the other nations to stimulate their economies to pick up the slack caused by the US slowdown.

"We feel we are engaged in a life or death struggle here to preserve the world economy," Mr Baker said last week in answering criticism that the pressure on West Germany and Japan could be counterproductive. Without expansionary actions, he said it was only logical to conclude that the dollar must go lower.

This is the reason the attempts to mobilise the G-5 ministers are so important, regardless of whether the meeting is actually held. One of these three possible scenarios will send a powerful signal.

● If a meeting is scheduled next weekend, it is an optimistic sign that the industrialized nations have agreed on a plan for co-ordinated economic expansion to reduce the \$170 billion US trade deficit by avoiding a collapse of the dollar.

● If the meeting is delayed it means the G-5 nations are still far apart in the ways they intend to collaborate jointly to ensure continued growth.

● The worst possible outcome would be the scheduling of a meeting in which nothing significant happens. This would signal to international financial and currency markets that international economic co-operation had broken down completely. The dollar would drop sharply and interest rates would have to rise, raising the spectre of another world recession.

CBI talks seek stronger
trade ties with Soviets

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Fresh attempts to increase trade between Britain and the Soviet Union will be made at the end of the month in advance of the Prime Minister's planned visit to Moscow in the spring.

A team of 20 top industrialists, chosen by the Confederation of British Industry and headed by its president, Mr David Nickson, will attend a weekend of talks in London with a senior Russian delegation.

The CBI said Government ministers were expected to attend the inaugural dinner on February 27.

The conference is seen as an ideal opportunity to forge new trade links and in particular to investigate the potential for new business in high technology sectors.

The trade balance between Britain and the Soviet Union remains firmly in favour of

the Russians, despite increased Russian purchases last year.

In 1985, British exports were worth £537 million, with imports from Russia of £724 million. Last year, exports rose to £554 million and imports fell to £706 million.

Mr Hugo Herbert-Jones, CBI director of international affairs, said: "This is a valuable opportunity to discuss with the Soviets new developments in their economy, in particular to find out details of the economic reforms being implemented by the Gorbachev regime."

The Soviets were undertaking a significant programme of factory refurbishment, he said, a field in which Britain had, as one of the original industrialized countries, greater experience than most. There were also good opportunities in energy conservation.

A record year for
Scandinavian Bank Group

"Pretax profits rose by 86% and consolidated assets grew for the 17th year in succession to reach £3,500 million".

Garrett F. Bouton
Managing Director and Chief Executive

Highlights from audited 1986 Consolidated Accounts*

£'000	1986	1985
Profit before taxation	26,379	14,164
Profit after taxation and minority interest	16,705	7,188
Consolidated assets	3,512,836	3,266,947
Total deposits	2,933,363	2,742,419
Loans and advances	1,855,345	1,845,549
Capital resources	227,573	207,001

*The highlights for 1986 are an extract from the Report & Accounts which will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and upon which the auditors have given an unqualified report.

Scandinavian
Bank
Group plc

The art of British banking Scandinavian style.

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Tel: 01-236 6090 Telex: 889093 Fax: 01-248 6612.

International Offices: Bahrain, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Geneva, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Melbourne, Milan, Monaco, New York, São Paulo, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Zurich.

ISSUED BY MORGAN GRENFELL & CO LIMITED ON BEHALF OF SCANDINAVIAN BANK GROUP plc

USM REVIEW

Market proves its worth with £1bn for the fledglings

Further evidence that the Unlisted Securities Market has achieved the task for which it was originally established — raising cash for fledgling companies — has been provided by Hoare Govett, the stockbroker.

Miss Marian MacBryde, a member of the USM team at Hoare Govett, said that a total of £1 billion was raised by companies coming to the market by the end of last year. A further £400 million was raised by way of rights issues.

"Both figures serve to illustrate the USM's success in providing finance for smaller growing businesses," said Miss MacBryde.

But the figures do not include large sums raised by vendor placings and the latest trend in financing acquisitions — vendor rights issues.

The vendor rights issue has grown in popularity with companies on both the USM and main market and was a method of financing highlighted by the Dee Corporation's £200 million purchase of the Fine Fare supermarket chain from Associated British Foods last summer.

In simple terms, a vendor rights issue is usually a placing of shares to help finance an acquisition. The shares are then made available to the company's existing shareholders.

The Dee acquisition of Fine Fare drew criticism from several of the big fund managers because only 25 per cent of the 14.75 million shares being issued were offered originally to existing shareholders. Dee later reduced and amended the figure to 75 per cent.

As a result, something like the full issue of new shares is now being made available to existing shareholders on the basis of a minimum number of shares or a pro rata basis up to a maximum level. If the shares are not taken up they can then be offered to new shareholders.

The latest company to opt for a vendor rights issue is

Floyd Oil Participations, the unlisted oil and gas exploration group, which is paying up to £5.75 million for the coal mining interests of Hampton Gold Mining Areas.

Floyd is issuing 15 million new shares at 40p each with 83.5 per cent of the new shares being offered to existing shareholders. The rest will be taken up by the vendors.

Meanwhile, yet another company is graduating from the USM to a full listing. Freshbake Foods, the frozen food group, which last year bought Slater Food Products, is taking the big step. Freshbake was floated in September 1983, at 60p, valuing the entire group at nearly £3 million. On Friday, the shares, listed at 140p, boasting a price tag of £61 million.

Freshbake certainly has its fair share of admirers and investors. So last week, Mr John Taylor, the chairman, addressed a presentation of selected fund managers arranged by Morgan Grenfell Securities. A few days later Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the stockbroker, published a buy circular on the shares.

Freshbake takes to 82 the total of USM companies which have graduated to a full listing since 1980.

But the alteration in placing requirements, which coincided with Big Bang means there is a growing tendency among small companies to look to a full listing, rather than cutting their teeth on the USM.

Miss MacBryde gives the warning that there are companies whose profiles, size and profits growth are better suited to the USM now opting for a full listing.

The difference between the cost of a full listing and a place on the USM has grown narrower since Big Bang. It usually averages between £150,000 and £200,000 for a USM listing.

"It depends very much on the structure of the company," she says.

Moonlighting ends in a £16m empire

In the early 1970s when it was difficult to make a living in the stock market, Mr Tim Simon, then a broker for Schavieren & Co, was forced, like many of his City colleagues, to take on other, more menial jobs, to make ends meet.

His chosen moonlighting activity was writing computer programmes and that laid the foundations for Consultants Computer Financial, his present day £16 million computer services empire.

CCF was officially born in 1974 with just £1,000 capital, £200 from Tim, £200 from his father Neil, then a partner at Schavieren, and £400 from the firm's other partners — and it has kept up a compound growth rate of more than 60 per cent every year since.

Its flotation on the USM in 1981 at the equivalent of 8.9p, compares with a share price now of 162p, which means it has, in percentage terms, grown more than any other USM share since its flotation.

It has done all this without borrowing any money — with



Tim Simon: only the first phase of growth

the exception of one short-term loan of £25,000 several years ago — and now has a cash pile of about £2 million in the bank.

Mr Simon, aged 40, says confidently, "That just the first phase of growth over and done with."

CCF specializes in providing computer services to the financial services industry. Mr Simon sees the company's future growth as being geographical, maintaining the world of financial services as its main source of business.

CCF now has offices in Hong Kong, New York and Sydney.

Vivian Gray, the broker, says that despite its recent re-rating "the stock is cheap and offers long-term capital appreciation prospects." Profits of £2.2 million are expected for 1986, rising to £3.1 million in 1987.

Michael Clark

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
Adam & Company	11.00%
BCCI	11.00%
Bank of America	11.00%
Bank of Montreal	11.00%
Bank of Scotland	11.00%
Bank of Tokyo	11.00%
Bank of Victoria	11.00%
Bank of West	11.00%
Bank of York	11.00%
Bank of Zaire	11.00%
Bank of Zimbabwe	11.00%
Bank of the South Atlantic	11.00%
Bank of the Caribbean	11.00%
Bank of the Middle East	11.00%
Bank of the Pacific	11.00%
Bank of the South Pacific	11.00%
Bank of the West Indies	11.00%
Bank of the Americas	11.00%
Bank of the Commonwealth	11.00%
Bank of the East	11.00%
Bank of the Far East	11.00%
Bank of the Indian Ocean	11.00%
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sherwood cut down

There's an old saying in the City that when times are good James Sherwood, the American president of Sea Containers, flies everywhere in his company jet. When times are bad, he parks it in a hangar somewhere. Times must now be even worse because at the beginning of this month he was forced to sign a year-long contract, leasing it out to the AA.

Sherwood, whose £1 billion company, quoted in New York, owns Sealink and also operates in the struggling container leasing business, admits that 1986 was a difficult year. Fifteen of its container customers went bust, leaving it with unpaid bills of £17 million. Redundancy costs from the closure of its loss-making Channel Islands ferry crossing have set it back a further £17 million. But Sherwood is optimistic. "We should see strong earnings recovery in 1987," he says.



James Sherwood: times may be a-changing

Byron's back!

With so much Guinness money stashed away in Switzerland awaiting collection, it is interesting to note that Byron Ousey, the PRO at Morgan Grenfell, has just flown back from a weekend in the land of numbered Swiss bank accounts. Morgans, you will remember, were Guinness' merchant bank advisers until last month. Alas it was sking not money that drew Mr Ousey to the Alps.

Feathers are being ruffled, I hear, among the City stalwarts who have banked for generations at the Stock Exchange branch of Barclays. The bank, in Angel Court, off Throgmorton Street, is merging its systems with its sister branch in Old Broad Street and, after pressure from the exchange, is changing its name to Angel Court Bank. A number of its clients are said to be less than happy at the less prestigious address on their cheque books.

That's Liffe's

Keith Catchpole, the trader on the London International Financial Futures Exchange who was "temporarily relieved of his duties" last week pending an investigation into breaches of the exchange's rules, is no stranger to controversy. In November 1980, he was suspended for one month from dealing on the Stock Exchange after the exchange's committee of investigation found that he had given them false evidence. He promptly resigned from Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroking firm where he was both a partner and senior dealer, only to resurface a few years later at Liffe.

A nominee account in the name of Harvard Securities, the licensed dealer, owns almost 7 per cent of Europian Holdings, the Jersey group which supplied the off-the-shelf company Marketing and Acquisitions for mystery beneficiaries. One of the few things known about Marketing and Acquisitions is that it received £5.6 million from the Guinness "missing millions".

Life assured

Woody Allen claimed that there were worse things than death "as you'll know if you've ever spent an evening with a life assurance salesman." Not everyone agrees: regular visits to their friendly neighbourhood life assurance salesman are arranged by The Porchester Group, which claims to have invested more than £200 million on behalf of 140,000 clients over the last five years. Porchester is headed by 33-year-old Trevor Deaves who has the doubtful distinction of being the only life assurance salesman ever to have appeared on the front cover of the *New Statesman* in 1981, after he had made indecent comments in a speech to a group of life salesmen. Nowadays he gets so much good publicity in *Money* magazine that some people think he doesn't. He doesn't, but he does own a 96 point something per cent of Porchester. He looked really pleased when he stepped out of his chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce - reg. TCD 41 - to put details of a £28 million link-up with German-owned Cornhill Insurance.

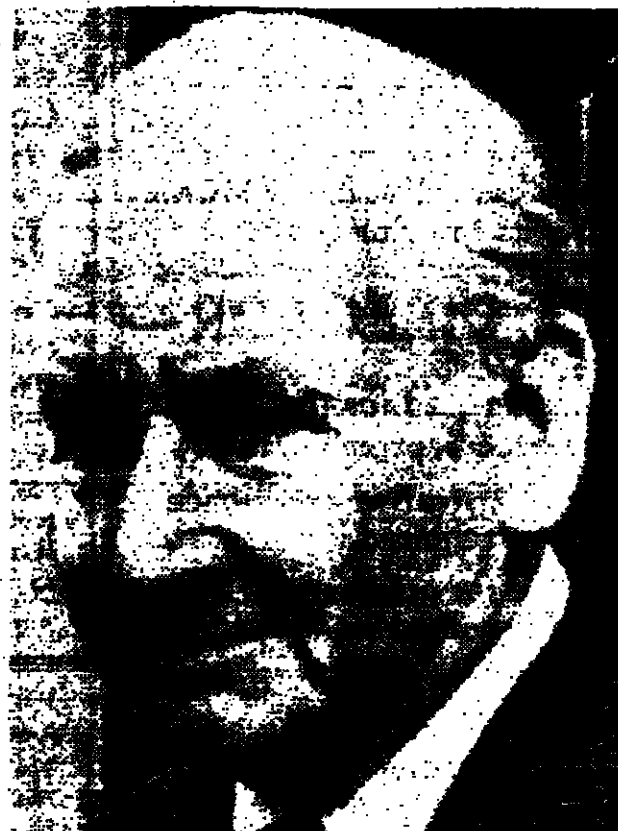
Carol Leonard

Too soon to write off the Takeover Panel

Once again, the City's Takeover Panel is under siege. In the light of recent events, it would be remarkable if there were no calls for a reappraisal of the ways by which business and its financiers are policed.

But the critics who are today baying for the Panel's blood would do well to keep a sense of perspective.

This is by no means the first time the Panel has been subject to a barrage of criticism from those who wish to see its demise. In the past it has been accused of many things.



Lord O'Brien, formerly Sir Leslie, whose early intervention led to stronger powers for the Panel to police takeovers.

At one time it was regarded as an unwarranted restriction on the working of the free market. At others, it has been accused of working too slowly, closing stable doors only after the occupants had fled. In the early 1970s, a period of merger activity comparable to that of the past 18 months, the Panel was once again in deep water.

Companies were seen to be riding roughshod over the spirit of the Takeover Code, and finding fresh and effective takeover tactics not specifically prohibited by the rules as they then stood. Just as today, the demise of the voluntary system for which the Panel stood, was frequently predicted.

Perhaps the Panel's darkest hour came in 1968 when it was under severe attack from those inside the City as well as without. Ironically, it was Morgan Grenfell and Cazenove, the two eminent houses who figured so largely in the Guinness affair, which then challenged the authority of the infant Panel by publicly disagreeing with its ruling that they had breached the newly-minted Takeover Code.

It was a crucial moment in the history of the City's attempts to regulate itself without resort to statute. During the final stages of an acrimonious partial bid for Gallaher, Cazenove staged a lightning share-buying operation on behalf of American Tobacco and its banker, Morgan Grenfell.

Effectively, this buying operation allowed all those contacted by Cazenove to sell all their holdings of Gallaher shares at the winning bid price. Since this was a partial offer, other holders obtained the top price for only half of their holdings. The Panel declared this to be unfair.

Morgan Grenfell and Cazenove said they could not agree with the conclusions of the Panel. But this public defiance of the Panel's authority outraged the then Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Leslie O'Brien. He wrote a long open letter to the Issuing Houses Association, deploring the fact

that rulings by the Panel had been questioned.

He called for fresh attempts to make the system more effective. Eventually, the Panel emerged from the affair stronger and better equipped to police behaviour in takeovers and mergers.

Periods of doubt over the effectiveness of the Panel are by no means rare. Rather, they should be seen as predictable in the evolutionary process of developing a system appropriate to the times. What is also too often overlooked is the solid record of achievement which has emerged from this process.

Vast improvements have taken place in the conduct of bids since pre-Panel days. There has been a steady closing of loopholes in the years since it was set up. In the 1950s, takeover battles were frequently conducted according to the law of the jungle.

Contested bids were relatively rare in the period immediately after the war and there was no framework of rules designed to ensure fair play for shareholders in general. Devil take the hindmost was the frequent order of the day.

Tactics used were outrageous by today's standards and shareholders' rights were frequently overridden. Sir Alexander Johnston, a former deputy chairman of the Panel recalled some of the more

notable cases in his 1980 memoirs.

In 1956, after a majority of shareholders in Scottish Motor Traction accepted a bid from Charles Clore's Sears Holdings, the SMT board agreed to sell off all its valuable properties to a third party.

This was surely the forerunner of Wall Street's "poison pill" technique by which the victim attempts to make itself deeply unattractive to a predator. Only the threat of lengthy litigation forced SMT to unwind the sale. But the affair raised important questions of a board's wider responsibilities to the rest of the shareholders.

In 1967 Aberdeen Holdings bid for Metal Industries and quickly gathered 53 per cent of the equity. Metal Industries then handed over a large block of authorized but unused shares to a preferred rival bidder, Thorne, in exchange for a Thorne subsidiary. This play diluted Aberdeen's holding to 32 per cent and eventually led to Thorne's victory.

Later that year, Showers, the Babyham people, made a hostile bid for International Distillers and Vintners. Watney, which wanted to buy IDV's wines and spirits companies, bought 15 per cent of IDV shares. With the 40 per cent held by IDV directors, this blocked Showers' offer to shareholders at large. The joint action of Watney

with IDV's board frustrated the Showers bid and shareholders were denied a chance to consider a legitimate offer for their shares.

There were few controls on information given to shareholders in those days too. Despite the forecast of a magical recovery in profits, AEI eventually fell to the then Mr Arnold Weinstock's GEC in 1967. Subsequently, AEI turned in a loss of £4.5 million instead of the forecast profit of £10 million.

This bid was one of several which led to the formulation of accounting standards by the professional bodies and much tougher rules on forecasts made during takeover bids.

During the 1970s, the Takeover Panel under the vigorous lead of Lord Showers progressively closed off these areas of abuse and many more besides. They dealt with the problems of partial bids, warehousing, indemnities, shut-out bids and late or non-delivery of vital information.

The Panel began to flex its muscles and used its authority in an interventionist manner, imposing sanctions on Lescage over its withdrawal from the bid for Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon group.

It also raised wider questions over the standard of disclosure by Pergamon to its own shareholders which led to a DTI investigation. Mr Maxwell fought hard against the Panel's wide interpretation of its responsibilities, but the DTI inspectors vindicated the Panel's action.

It is also worth noting that the Panel urged in 1973 that insider trading should become a criminal offence. It was many years before the necessary legislation was enacted.

Throughout its history of a mere 20 years, the Panel has speedily and flexibly dealt with thousands of cases adding to its collected wisdom and updating the Code in the light of practical experience.

It would take an extremely myopic analysis to deny that this self-regulating system has produced a much fairer and clearer framework for shareholders, companies and their advisers. Throughout, the Panel has had to strike a balance between upholding a free market in securities and imposing sufficient constraints to ensure fair treatment for shareholders.

In the light of the record, it would seem premature to replace the present system with a statutory one. There is much more mileage to be gained from the continuing process of amendment and adaptation.

John Bell
City Editor

COMMENT
Tougher Code faces new political tests

The City Takeover Panel has responded with speed - and demonstrably hurt pride - to the call by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, for a Whitehall-assisted review of its Code and powers. On Friday evening, barely 48 hours later, the Panel issued rule changes to cope with the potential for abuse revealed by the final stages of the takeover battles for Distillers and AEI.

They are carefully targeted. In the Panel's evolutionary tradition, they aim to deter specific abuses without fettering market dealings. They also maintain the strict neutrality between bidders and victims that has lain at the heart of voluntary regulation.

In the struggle of the Inland Revenue to close ever more cunning loopholes devised by the tax avoidance industry, this approach used to be called "the sniper's bullet." It preserved the taxpayer's freedom to minimize his tax bill but, by definition, the pioneers escaped through the loophole before it could be closed. In the end, public anger at the scale of systematic artificial tax avoidance became so great that the niceties went by the board in a blanket ban.

Similar anger is now focused on takeover bids. The most immediate clamour comes from the current City scandals, which stem from bids. More generally, merger excess, drummed up by the takeover industry, has focused political ire on the malign industrial side-effects of market efficiency. There is strong pressure on the City to take a more socially responsible view or face Whitehall control. The Code reforms will be judged in this context.

The changes are all aimed at greater disclosure of share dealings during a bid battle. They stress the principle of marching freedom to deal with transparency, so that, as the Stock Exchange Panel statement put it, shareholders can "make an informed judgement."

More players will have to disclose dealings in the shares involved. This is principally achieved by tightening one definition of associates (which have to disclose dealings in the bidding or bid-for company including those by their clients). Owning 5 rather than 10 per cent of either company will now qualify you. Associates will no longer be able to hide behind nominee names. The rule that any inducement to buy sell or do nothing must be disclosed has been clarified. And, under a new rule, anyone holding 1 per cent of one of the companies involved in a bid must disclose dealings in that company, rather than the 5 per cent in the Companies Act.

It is not hard to match these detailed rule changes to the various names and deals in the support operation for Guinness shares that have been prized

out of the woodwork. But there is more to it than that.

The Exchange will in future monitor the prices of shares involved in a bid and use its new computerized record of deals to spot suspected share manipulation. And, once the Guinness inspectors have done their stuff, the Panel is likely to have an opportunity to show its teeth (as it controversially did over AEI). It believes there were deliberate breaches of its existing code.

Hence the Panel has responded in three ways: by tightening the rules, potentially improving detection, and stressing its powers. Moreover, the new 1 per cent rule could have the interesting side effect on exposing the social responsibility (or otherwise) of the biggest institutional shareholders. Their predilection to wash their hands of the issues, by selling shares of the victim company in the market, will no longer go unpublicized.

The Panel's response, however, is likely to be challenged on two levels. In the light of the current scandals, is the principle of freedom with disclosure sufficient response to abuse of share dealing? There is, for instance, a strong case for banning dealings in the shares of an offeror, by its own agents or associates or, particularly, by a rival offeror (such as Argyll selling Guinness). There seems little legitimate purpose in such deals. Some kinds of deal - such as selling shares in the company one is bidding for - are already banned.

The most difficult issue, however, is whether the takeover rules should be amended to take account of the increasing sophistication of the takeover industry. This has distorted the balance in favour of takeover bidders and against defending companies. Bids could be made more difficult, without overriding the market, by a substantial rewriting of the Takeover Code. In some instances, this could be in the spirit of fairness, for instance, in reducing permitted purchases of victim company shares to take account of the increased role of arbitrageurs.

To revise the rules systematically on this account, however, would contradict one of the basic premises of the Code: that it is not concerned "with those wider questions which are the responsibility of Government, advised by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission." The Government, in its turn, sees the wider issues other than competition as the responsibility of the City. And the Panel is quintessentially the collective voice of the City on takeovers. Is the City, by default, supporting the demands of opposition parties for greater Whitehall control?

Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

GILT-EDGED
Trends in world financial markets warrant optimism

A number of cross-currents are working together to influence the global financial outlook. These include general dollar weakness, a fall-off in US demand growth and a firmer oil price. On balance, these three features are conspiring to dampen economic activity in most countries. The key worry is that, unless an economic stimulus is applied outside the US, global economic activity will stagnate.

Action taken so far to ease world interest rates hardly scratches at the problem. Real interest rates and fiscal stances outside the US are still too restrictive. Nominal GNP growth outside the US and Britain is sluggish and likely to remain so.

Added to this, inflation in leading countries is at a 20-year low, with unemployment generally at a 50-year high. When one considers that countries accounting for about half the GNP of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development have general elections in the next 12-18 months, the scene appears to be set for further policy relaxation in Japan and Europe in 1987.

Where does the British gilt market fit into this international scene? At present, Britain is not able to play a full role in any big global push to lower interest rates because sterling remains vulnerable against the mark. This reflects the forthcoming general election, uncertainty about oil prices and worries about the balance of payments.

Whether the polls show a small lead for Labour or the Conservatives, for an incumbent government in Britain to be so close in the running at say six-to-nine months before an election, is encouraging for the Government. An overall majority for the Conservatives in the next election appears the likely outcome, which it is generally perceived would lift some of the political premium incorporated in gilt yields.

Equally, the oil price outlook is not unattractive for Britain. Oil prices could again become fragile, but it is hard to see a fall to much below

\$15 a barrel - a figure on which the Chancellor's arithmetic is still based.

Also, the Chancellor's preferred measure of money supply, M0, is starting to misbehave, approaching the upper end of its target range, with the broader measure of money supply, way above target. Again, in a world context, these trends are not unduly disturbing.

The trend in the balance of payments on current account, however, is more disturbing, although not as severe as some forecasters would have us believe. The sharp pick-up in British invisible earnings, combined with improved export performance, should help to partially offset buoyant import growth.

Nevertheless, these concerns are prompting the Chancellor to err on the side of caution in his pre-Budget analysis. This applies despite the fact that the PSBR is significantly undershooting target.

My belief is that official caution in fiscal and interest-rate policy will persist, with the Chancellor unlikely to stray far beyond the dictates of prudence. What may stiffen his resolve is that Britain, unlike most of continental Europe and Japan, has been enjoying a significant stimulus from a relatively non-inflationary devaluation of its currency.

Taking into account an anticipated cautionary bias in official policy, the buoyancy of non-oil revenues should allow Mr Lawson the scope to achieve both a financially sound and politically attractive Budget. His preferred route may well be to use a large part of the prevailing revenue buoyancy to reduce government borrowing and, hopefully, bring interest rates down. This would be well received in the gilt and foreign exchange markets.

The main risk to the above relates to the dollar. While the dollar may show some firmness in the short term, following better-than-expected US trade figures last Friday, I do not expect this to last.

My central view is that if current world policy stances are maintained in the short term, the dollar will probably have to fall further moderately against the mark bloc currencies and the yen. Beyond the next few months, however, there are good prospects of the dollar "basing out" on the assumptions of interest-rate and fiscal easing in Central Europe and Japan, concerted multilateral intervention, and renewed US commitment to cut significantly its budget deficit.

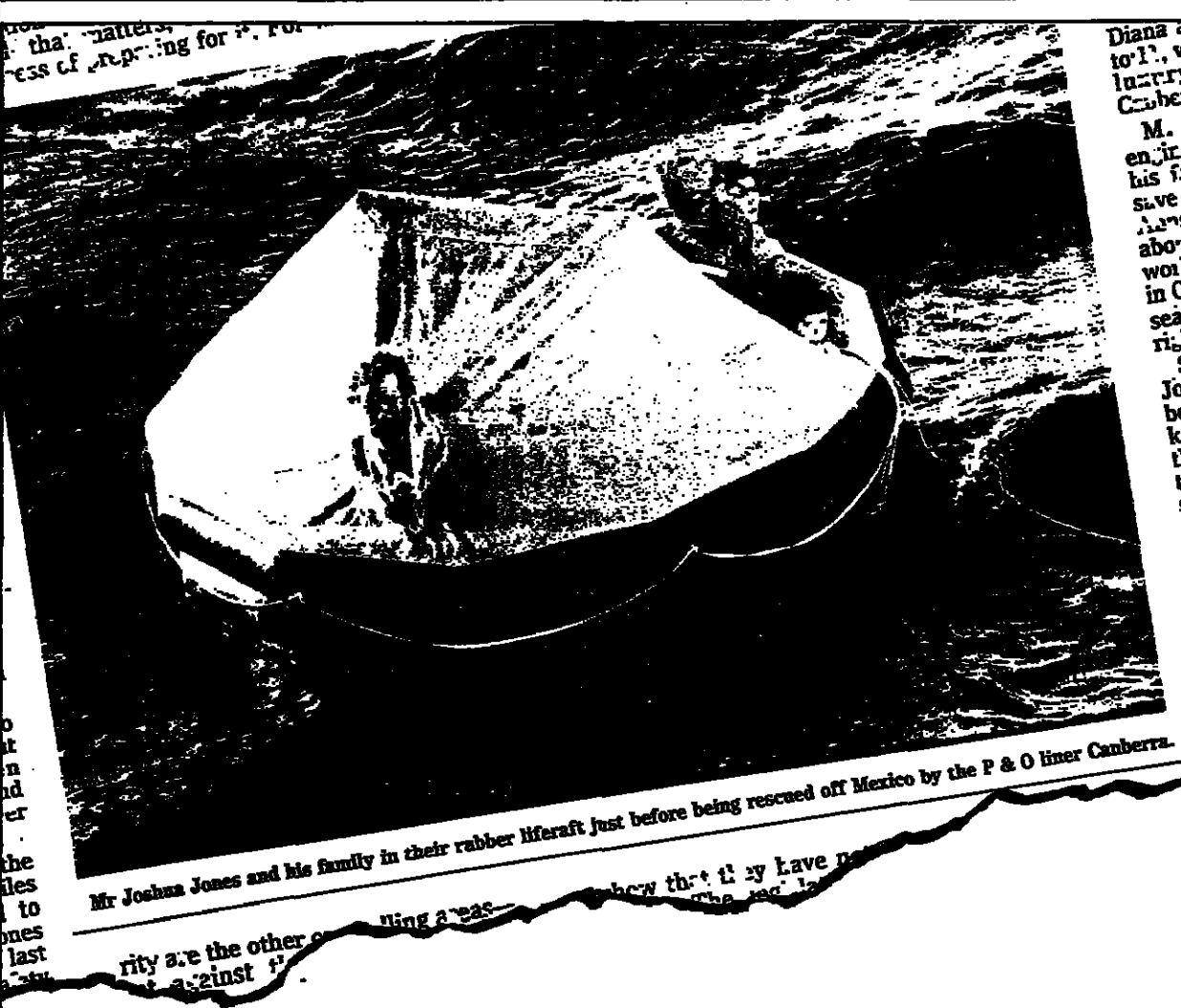
In this environment, sterling should hold out reasonably well against the dollar and mark, as Britain is unlikely to participate fully in the worldwide drive to lower interest rates. Gilt yields would benefit from a widening of their yield advantage against bonds in other leading nations.

My crisis scenario, to which I ascribe a relatively low probability, is that of the dollar falling very much further, say to DM1.45 and Yen1.30. This could precipitate a big dollar-stabilization package, including a significant rise in US interest rates to support the US currency, co-ordinated policy measures and significant foreign exchange intervention. Higher US interest rates would adversely impact on all financial markets.

Overall, my central scenario justifies a cautiously optimistic outlook for gilts. Already, hard currency-based investors are being lured into sterling-based instruments by high nominal and real yields and the perception that sterling may be "bottoming out" against the mark and yen.

This optimism is not as yet shared by domestic investors. If my assumptions, on the course of oil prices, the shape of the Budget, the run-up to the election and the performance of the dollar and interest rates prove reasonably accurate, domestic interest in gilts could soon revive.

Jeffrey Mizrahi
The author is a director and chief economist at Savory Miln, the securities house.



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HORIZONS

A guide to
career choice

Tea trolleys in the sky

The lure of flying does not diminish. Airlines receive thousands of unsolicited applications for flying duties every year, most of them for positions as cabin staff. Smaller airlines, which are most affected by seasonal traffic, recruit more temporarily than permanent staff.

The two largest, British Airways and British Caledonian, recruit at both levels. One might think that as more people take foreign holidays and are able to see the cabin staff hard at work during every minute of the flight, the illusions of glamour surrounding the job might have been stripped away. But no. "We get 30,000 letters and phone calls every year," says British Caledonian, "although not all of those are from serious candidates. Many don't meet our educational or physical (height, weight, medical) requirements."

It is hard work. Staff are on the go continuously, pushing trolleys, serving meals, dealing with sales and currency calculations, coping with all types of passengers and with copious paperwork before and after takeoff. Airlines are looking for candidates who are physically fit, able to handle stress caused by unsocial hours and to deal tactfully with the travelling public. All expect experience of working with the public - reception work, nursing or catering are suggested as suitable previous employment.

Specific requirements vary with each company. The average minimum height is 5 ft 2 in; most have a minimum age of 20, although British Airways says its average age of entry is 23 and British

Flying retains its glamour for the job seeker and airlines are even pursuing a policy of positive discrimination for male stewards, says Beryl Dixon



Candidates can be ignorant of routes

Caledonian's is 22 to 24. O-levels are normally expected and languages vary from "very important" to "essential". Eyesight requirements vary. BA, for instance, permits wearing glasses and contact lenses. B Cal does not. Some companies do not permit dentures. All insist on the possession of a passport which allows the holder to leave and re-enter Britain without restriction.

It used to be an almost exclusively female career. Now, several airlines are taking positive steps to balance the numbers of stewards and stewardesses, and those who are not will have to do so. Dan Air was the subject of an Equal Opportunities Commission Non-Discrimination Notice in October 1986, requiring it to cease "its practice of excluding men from employment as aircraft cabin crew."

Companies can take their pick from good applicants. I asked British Caledonian how it is done. "We ask them to submit an application form and photographs," said a spokeswoman. "We look at those first and reject any who don't meet our requirements. Then they have an interview with a senior steward/stewardess or the cabin staff superintendent."

At this stage we're looking at appearance and personality, asking how well they fit in as cabin crew members,

and finding out how much they know about British Caledonian. It's amazing how many haven't had the initiative to find out which routes we fly and which languages we might use." A second interview follows, with a panel asking more searching questions and emphasizing the unsocial hours in the job. Many are rejected at this stage. Then comes a strict company medical - and finally, the offer of a training place.

Chances of obtaining a trainee position at present are uncertain. Airlines often prefer to appoint permanent cabin crew from their temporary staff, and all point to a decrease in turnover since more career-minded staff are being recruited.

Employment prospects have never been better for pilots - but competition for training places will be as severe as ever. There is a shortage of commercial pilots which is likely to continue. The 1981 oil crisis caused airlines to "rationalize" their fleets. Then qualified Laker pilots flooded the market, with the result that all companies had a surplus. British Airways, the only company to train pilots in any number, closed and sold off its training school at Hamble.

Now no one is training commercial pilots and this coincides with the fact that many have taken voluntary redundancy or are approaching retirement. Also, according to a BA spokesman: "The supply of ex-RAF pilots is not

abundant. The RAF is doing its best to hang on to them, and those who leave can find lucrative contracts in places like Saudi."

British Airways, which has exactly the right number of pilots now, has decided to build up its supply. A hundred pilots will be trained in 1988 in groups of approximately 16 at two-monthly intervals, and training is expected to continue for the next 20 years. Although the first course is not due to commence until January 4, 1988, the first advertisements will appear in the national press in February. This time, however, the 70-week training course will be run for BA on a contract basis by British Aerospace at their Prestwick training school.

Despite the shortage of pilots, competition is likely to be severe. In the Hamble days BA regularly had 1,000 applications for every 100 candidates it accepted, and has had "a large number of inquiries" in anticipation of the new scheme. Prospective applicants should first check that they meet the stringent nationality, age and medical requirements. Candidates must be British and between 18 and 24 (experience at Hamble showed that the nearer to 18 the trainee, the greater the chance of success).

A list of medical requirements is sent on application. Furthermore, applicants must have two A-levels or equivalent, maths and physics being the preferred subjects, and be between 5ft 4in and 6ft 4in. This has brought some letters of protest, since 25 per cent of the female

Airline sets two-day aptitude tests

population is automatically excluded, but "you have to be at least 5 ft 4 in to reach the controls on a Boeing jet."

BA incidentally, has received a lot of inquiries from women and expects to appoint a considerable number. Next, and before any interviews, come two days of aptitude tests: flying aptitude, hand/eye, foot/eye coordination, technical numeracy, mental agility, reasoning, mechanical and instrument comprehension on the first; personality - leadership, teamwork and decision making - on the second. "We're making the selection procedure such that people without flying experience will be able to pass," says Dr Jack Wheale, responsible for recruitment. "We don't just want those who have been able to afford private lessons."

Training pilots is very expensive and successful trainees, if offered a contract, will be expected to stay with BA for five years. "We've tightened up the contractual requirements," says Dr Wheale. "In the past, other airlines stood outside the gates of Hamble, offering higher salaries to our trainees."

Further information on British Airways' sponsored pilot training may be obtained from, British Airways, Candidate Relations, PO Box 59, Heathrow Airport, Hounslow TW5 9QX, and cabin staff from individual airlines.

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOOL-LEAVERS!

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The opportunity is open to you if you intend to begin a first degree course in one of these disciplines in Autumn 1987.

For more information and an application form write to: Department of Trade and Industry, PM3A, Room 448, Sanctuary Buildings, 16-20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. The closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is 2 March 1987.

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The Council of Denstone College invites applications for the post of

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Further information from: Sarah Bradbury (quoting MBA, MS or MA), School of Industrial and Business Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL. Tel: (0203) 523523 Ext. 2042

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

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Provides an understanding of institutions and issues in British industrial relations, broadly defined, and develops a systematic approach to comparative and theoretical issues.

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EDUCATIONAL

COURSES

The British School of Osteopathy

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The British School of Osteopathy has been in Westminster since 1917 and is now in specially adapted accommodation just off Trafalgar Square. The 4-year Diploma Course includes a 4-term pre-clinical course at least 2,000 hours are spent in the School's own out-patient clinics. All tuition in the clinical course is under the supervision of practising Registered Osteopaths.

The B.S.O. Diploma in Osteopathy. Holders of the B.S.O. Diploma (D.O.) are eligible to apply for membership of the General Council & Register of Osteopaths (M.R.O.).

Admission requirements are broadly the same as for degree courses - at least 2 A-levels (including Chemistry and preferably Biology) - and 3 O-levels. Entry in September 1987 is still possible requirements and further details may be obtained from:

The British School of Osteopathy
1/4 Suffolk Street,
London SW1Y 4HB
Telephone: 01-930 9254

Principal: Sir Norman Lindop, Hon. D.Ed.,
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University of Reading

Appointments

PROFESSORSHIP OF CLASSICS

Applications are invited for the Professorship of Classics in the Department of Classics. The appointment will be made from a date to be agreed with the successful candidate.

Applicants should be scholars with an established reputation in one or more of the central areas of Greek and Roman studies.

Further information may be obtained from:

The Registrar, Room 212, Whiteknights House, P.O. Box 217, The University, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 2AH.

The closing date for applications is 2 March 1987.

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Continued on page 28

EDUCATIONAL

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

SIR FREDERICK PAGE AWARD

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN AEROSPACE MANUFACTURE

Applications are invited for the above Fellowship, tenable for up to three years at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, commencing Summer 1987.

Applicants will be graduates (a Higher Degree would be an advantage) who have a minimum of two years relevant experience in industry, with a particular interest in Aircraft Manufacturing.

The topic for research is the application of new technologies in aircraft manufacturing activities. Particular areas of interest would include the use of computers and computing devices, materials handling, assembly methods, factory environment and layout, cell integration, communication, control and monitoring systems, cost and efficiency factors.

The projects will be compatible with the University Engineering Department's programmes and facilities would be available in the Department for the furtherance of both hardware and software developments.

The holder of the Award, which is sponsored by British Aerospace PLC, will be for its duration a Fellow Commoner of St Catharine's College and will work in the University Engineering Department. As Fellow, the holder will reside within ten miles of Cambridge, be entitled to a room in College and other amenities and be expected to contribute to the teaching programme of the Department.

British Aerospace will pay a competitive industrial salary, which will depend on age and experience. In addition, payments will be made to cover University and other dues together with expenses incurred as an approved part of the study task. On completion of the Fellowship, it is expected that the Fellow will return to or join British Aerospace to continue some of the work undertaken during the study.

Further details and an application form may be obtained by writing to the address below, marking letters for the attention of Mr R D Turner, Training and Staff Development Manager. The closing date for completed application forms is 31 March 1987.

British Aerospace PLC
Military Aircraft Division, Warton Aerodrome
Preston, Lancashire, PR4 1AX

DURHAM UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

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The University invites applications for this post which carries full responsibility for the School's education, development and training programmes for managers from industrial, commercial, and public sector organisations.

The appointment, which will be for three years in the first instance, will be at an appropriate point on Administrative Grade III (£14,870 - £18,625 - under review).

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HP, to whom applications (3 copies) should be returned not later than Monday, 16th February, 1987.



University of Reading
Appointments

PROFESSORSHIP OF ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for the Professorship of Electronic Engineering which is vacant following the retirement of Professor E.A. Faulkner. The Department of Engineering and the Departments of Computer Science and Cybernetics form a new School of Engineering and Information Technology in the University.

Candidates should preferably be engineers with experience in the development of modern electronic systems and circuits in manufacturing industry. Links with the relevant Professional Institutions and a knowledge of the requirements of the Engineering Council on the education and training of engineering graduates are considered important.

The Professor will be expected to continue the development of the B.Eng degree in Electronic Engineering and to expand research in the subject. One of his principal tasks will be to expand and develop links with the major electronic industries now located in the Thames Valley.

Further information may be obtained from the Registrar, Room 212, Whiteknights House, P.O. Box 217, The University, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 2AH. The closing date for applications is 11 March 1987.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Applications are invited from medically or scientifically qualified candidates for a position, funded by the Parkinson's Disease Society, to join a small team investigating the central nervous control of motor function. The specific task will be to investigate the relation between synchronous firing of motoneurons and tremor, both in idiopathic Parkinson's disease and in an animal model. The work will involve (a) EMG and accelerometer recordings, (b) time series and Fourier analysis of data, and (c) chromatographic detection of monamines.

Applicants should have experience of electrophysiological recording. Knowledge of laboratory computing and an ability to communicate sympathetically with people would be advantageous.

The appointment will be tenable for up to three years and the start date is negotiable. Salary will be in Research Scale 1A starting at up to £10,375, according to age and experience, plus £1,297 London Allowance.

Applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names of two academic referees, should be sent to Dr. P. H. Ellaway, Department of Physiology, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT Tel 01-387 7050 Ext 3241, from whom further details may be obtained.

Quote reference FFCN 56-44-311-1.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

FACULTY OF MEDICINE PROFESSOR OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE

Applications are invited from clinicians for the Chair of Geriatric Medicine, which will become vacant in October 1987 following the retirement of Professor M R P Hall.

Further details may be obtained from:

The Secretary and Registrar,
The University,
Southampton, SO9 5NH

to whom applications (11 copies from applicants in the UK) should be sent before 2 March 1987.

Ref: T.

University of Karlsruhe Federal Republic of Germany

The Department of Computer Science has an opening for the tenured position of a

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Applicants who fulfil the qualifications for taking a professional position should submit a curriculum vitae, a resume of experience and interests and a list of publications not later than 15 March 1987 to the

Dekan der Fakultät für Informatik
Universität Karlsruhe
Postfach 6880
7600 Karlsruhe
Federal Republic of Germany

University of Exeter South West Energy Group PHYSICIST/ENGINEER

Devon and Cornwall County Councils and the States of Jersey have founded an Energy Group in conjunction with the University of Exeter, Plymouth Polytechnic and the Cambridge School of Mines, charged with the study of energy matters relating to the South West. The Group wishes to appoint an energy scientist to undertake work in the Exeter University Energy Study Unit. He/she will be a member of a small interdisciplinary team concerned with energy supply, management and conservation in buildings. The group is active in monitoring and mathematical modelling, and has an interest in alternative energy sources. Practical experience in energy management and/or energy conservation would be an advantage.

The appointment, to commence as soon as possible, will run initially until 30 September 1989, with a likely extension under a rolling grant. The starting salary will be in the range of £8020 - £9880 p.a. (under review) depending on age and experience. The post is superannuated and applicants should hold at least a good honours degree.

Letters of application (5 copies), giving details of qualifications and experience, together with the names of three referees, should be sent to the Personnel Office, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QJ by 16 February 1987, quoting reference no. 3499.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH Chair of Classics

Applications are invited for a newly established Chair of Classics which will result from the amalgamation of the four existing departments of Ancient History, Classical Archaeology, Greek and Humanity (Latin). The successful candidate, who will be a distinguished scholar in any recognised area of classical studies (e.g. historical, literary, linguistic, archaeological or philosophical), will be expected to take up the post on 1st October 1987, or as soon as possible thereafter. The salary will be in the Professorial range, minimum £19,100 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary to the University, University of Edinburgh, 63 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LS, with whom applications (12 copies) giving the names of 3 referees should be lodged not later than 23rd February 1987. Overseas candidates need submit only one copy of the application. Please quote Reference 49/87.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (University of London)

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Required for interesting appointment within the Medical School Registry, concerned mainly with the organisation of the clinical course and the Final M.B., B.S. examinations.

The post involves frequent contact with students and staff. Experience of similar university/hospital work an advantage, typing/computer skills desirable, graduate preferred. Salary on scale £7,055 - £12,780 (under review) plus £1,393 London Allowance.

Further details available from the School Office, R.F.H.S.M., Rowland Hill Street, London NW3 2PF (01-794 0500, extn. 4262), to which full curriculum vitae, including names and addresses of two referees, should be sent by 13 February 1987 quoting reference MSR/AR.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Applications are invited for a lectureship in this Department. Salary within the range £8,020 - £15,700 (under review).

Further particulars and application forms, returnable not later than 16 March 1987 may be obtained from the Staff Appointments Officer, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Ref No 1088.

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Suitably qualified candidates should address their applications to The Chairman, Mr. Marmaduke Hussey, at the British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA, to arrive no later than 10th February 1987.

Envelopes should be marked "Confidential (Ref. D.G.)"

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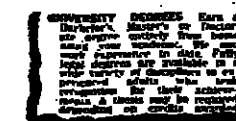
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Continued on next page

SKIING

Mueller leads a clean sweep by the Swiss to humiliate Austria

From David Miller, Chief Sports Correspondent, Crans Montana

Switzerland, led by Peter Mueller, inflicted a blow on Austria's sporting morale in the World Championships men's downhill more crushing than any World Cup defeat of Brazil in football, or as emphatic as a clean sweep in Test cricket by West Indies over Australia or England. For Austria's chief coach, Dieter Bartsch, it was as humiliating as Dave Bedford claiming he would beat the world in the 1972 Olympic Games and finishing nowhere.

Five of the first six places were taken by the Swiss on a diamond of a day when the Alps were stunningly beautiful. "It is a perfect day with the piste in perfect condition," Konrad Bartelski said as we waited in tense expectation before the start. It proved to be anything but perfect for Austria.

Bartsch had forecast that Hoeffner and Stock would take gold and bronze; they finished 14th and eighth respectively. Resch, second in Kitzbühel, was equal 16th, with Martin Bell, and Wirsberger 24th. "The biggest disaster in 50 years," stated *Kleine Zeitung* of Graz yesterday morning. Although Bartsch is under contract until after the Olympic Games in Calgary, his position must be perilously insecure.

Mueller's thrilling triumph, by an authoritative three-tenths of a second over Pirmin Zurbriggen, the holder and overwhelming home favourite, was sweet reward for an Alpine veteran who has been runner-up in the last World Championships, the 1984 Olympics and in 13 World Cup downhills. It was a reverse so alien to public expectation that a 40,000 crowd perched on the Bella Luis mountain was reduced to a strange, lukewarm enthusiasm — the shoe had fitted the ugly sister.

Not that Mueller minded. The Swiss press could talk all they wished beforehand of the good guy and the mean guy, like the Coe-Overt saga of 1980. Mueller had sensed that this was to be his day. Finishing second on the final training run the previous morning, he had entertained the crowd with a flourish of exorcism.

Henderson delays Sandown decision on See You Then

By George Rae

Nick Henderson will make a decision later this week about champion hurdler See You Then's participation in the Bonanza Hurdle, formerly the Oteley Hurdle, at Sandown Park on Saturday.

Henderson, whose plans are governed by how quickly the forecast warmer weather arrives, said yesterday: "It all hinges on when we can work him, and that would have to be Tuesday or Wednesday. If the weather forecast is accurate, we would have a chance of getting him to Sandown. It just depends on how much he blows after work. I would rate his prospects 50-50 at the moment."

See You Then, who is attempting to become the first horse since Persian War (1968-70) to win the Champion in three successive seasons, has had a corn out from his hock, but that is very much a minor consideration compared to the work he has missed during the bad weather.

The Lambourn-based Henderson suffered an disappointing day last Saturday.

Fairyhouse only bright spot

There is no racing in Britain again today following the loss of all four of Saturday's scheduled meetings. However, mild weather in Ireland has allowed the first race at Fairyhouse, postponed from Saturday, to take place.

Frost claimed today's meetings at Leicester and Plumpton yesterday, taking the total abandoned this season to 48. Leicester's fixture tomorrow is subject to an 11.30am inspection today. The first of the day's other meetings, Sedgemoor, will be decided today at a 4pm inspection.

the Gainsborough. His trainer, Nick Gasele, considers him "a probable runner".

Jenny Pittman has the former Gold Cup winner, Burrough Hill Ltd, and this season's Gold Cup second favourite, the progressive Searby. The former was being allotted top weight of 12 stone, 11lb more than Searby. She said: "I will probably have a runner but will wait until Friday before finally making up my mind."

She was characteristically forthright in crushing suggestion that time against Burrough Hill, who has not run since winning the Gainsborough a year ago. "Time is not running out, there is still six weeks to Cheltenham. If it was two weeks I'd be getting panicky."

Barnbrook's previous trip to Ireland yielded the 185,000 first prize in the Ladbrokes Hurdle at Leopardstown last month.

An intriguing entry, but not a certain runner at Sandown, is Colin Tinkler's unbeaten novice Mister Point, denied a run by the abandonment of Doncaster last Friday. Tinkler said: "Mis-

swanky turns on the 200 metres to the finishing line, which were like an Overt wave. They lost him split seconds but conveyed his supreme confidence."

Zurbriggen, he implied, could do what he liked. Mueller knew the course even better than Zurbriggen; he helped design it.

The pressure on Zurbriggen was immense. He was re-

Downhill result

1. P. Mueller, 2m 11.50sec	2. P. Zurbriggen, 2m 13.30sec	3. K. Almer, 2m 20.80sec	4. H. Hoeffner, 2m 28.34sec	5. B. Resch, 2m 28.50sec	6. D. Marmier, 2m 29.06sec	7. M. Gander, 2m 30.11sec	8. L. Stock, 2m 30.18sec	9. M. Wirsberger, 2m 30.45sec	10. S. Widmer, 2m 30.45sec	11. S. Widmer, 2m 30.45sec	12. S. Widmer, 2m 30.45sec	13. K. Gattermann, 2m 30.45sec	14. H. Hoeffner, 2m 30.45sec	15. H. Hoeffner, 2m 30.45sec	16. H. Hoeffner, 2m 30.45sec	17. H. Hoeffner, 2m 30.45sec	18. H. Hoeffner, 2m 30.45sec	19. H. Hoeffner, 2m 30.45sec	20. H. Hoeffner, 2m 30.45sec
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Medals table

Switzerland	3	0	0	3
Austria	0	1	1	2
United States	0	0	1	1
West Germany	0	0	1	1

garded as a more certain winner than even Carl Lewis in Los Angeles. Everywhere in Crans Montana his name confronts the visitor: in the banks, in the supermarkets, in the restaurants, in the hotels, in the mountains.

It is not being unfair to observe that, while he says he is glad his parents taught him to pray, his multiple confessions worth hundreds of thousands of Swiss francs a year have bought him a handsome house and himself a fat German limousine. Yet it should be said that he is always the most courteous of winners and gracious of losers.

The skin tights and the cow bells clang among the restive crowd as we wait for Zurbriggen to appear over the crest of the huge final jump on to the finishing slope — the first man down. As each racer there appears, there is wonderment, every time, that they survive at such speeds on such a precipice.

A growing roar, travelling down the mountain with him, presses Zurbriggen's descent. Suddenly, there he is against the cobalt skyline, soaring like a buzzard. Yet it is clear he is

Promising pupil at Forster's academy

By Christopher Goulding

Luke Harvey is the latest protégé of Captain Tim Forster's riding academy to make his mark in National Hunt racing.

The 20-year-old jockey is following in the footsteps of Richard Dunwoody and Graham Thorner, who started their careers with the Letchmore Bassett trainer.

Forster is not only a renowned horseman, having trained three Grand National winners, but he has also nurtured two champion National Hunt riders — Graham Thorner, champion in the 1970-71 season and Tim Thomson Jones, leading amateur rider last year.

The trainer has also helped Richard Dunwoody establish himself as one of the most sought-after riders over the sticks.

Elsworth has not entirely ruled out taking Desert Orchid to Ireland for the P.Z. Mowbray Chase, a 2½-mile conditions race, at Thurles later this month.

Bolands Cross, cost his intended run by the loss of protective Searby. The former was being allotted top weight of 12 stone, 11lb more than Searby. She said: "I will probably have a runner but will wait until Friday before finally making up my mind."

She was characteristically forthright in crushing suggestion that time against Burrough Hill, who has not run since winning the Gainsborough a year ago. "Time is not running out, there is still six weeks to Cheltenham. If it was two weeks I'd be getting panicky."

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Zurbriggen, he implied, could do what he liked. Mueller knew the course even better than Zurbriggen; he helped design it.

The pressure on Zurbriggen was immense. He was re-



High flyer: Walliser on the way to her downhill triumph

Walliser finds her time has come

Crans-Montana (Reuter) — Maria Walliser and Marc Girardelli ended their long wait for a gold medal with courageous victories at the World Championships yesterday.

Walliser ended the reign of Michela Figini in the women's downhill, and Girardelli beat the defending champion, Pirmin Zurbriggen, in the men's combined.

Zurbriggen, fancied to win a number of gold medals when the championships started, has lost both the titles he won in Bormio, Italy, two years ago, and finished twice with silver. He was beaten by Peter Mueller in the men's downhill on Saturday.

A remarkable parallel run through the three week-end races — the new champions are all leading riders who have spent years in search of a gold medal, and all three pushed tithe-holders into second place.

Walliser, who won by 0.31sec after a brilliant run by Figini, said afterwards: "When I saw the finish line I was flying and I was suddenly attracted to it like a magnet. It was as if all my life had been for this moment, as if



Luke Harvey: bright future

straight from school. "It never occurred to me to do anything else other than race. My whole life revolves around racing. I was introduced to Captain Forster on Bickley Bridge at Tamworth, a strange place where everyone comes down to follow the hounds," he said.

"When I first moved from Devon to Letchmore Bassett my illusions were shattered starting at his camp. I was as if all my life was for this moment, as if

straight from school. "It never occurred to me to do anything else other than race. My whole life revolves around racing. I was introduced to Captain Forster on Bickley Bridge at Tamworth, a strange place where everyone comes down to follow the hounds," he said.

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Sherwani guides Birmingham to indoor triumph

By Sydney Friskin

Iranian Sherwani, one of England's World Cup players, earned the player of the tournament award after scoring nine goals for Birmingham, who won the Lada Inter-City indoor championship at Crystal Palace on Saturday after defeating Southampton 7-2 in the final.

Birmingham's £2,000 prize will be divided among the indoor clubs who supplied the players for the Midlands cup. Sherwani, who scored three goals in Birmingham's 4-2 second final win over London North, played no small part in the triumph. The other clubs who offered players to Birmingham were Stourport, South Notts, Harborne, Bourneville and Pickwick.

Richard Lennan, Southampton's hero, dominated the first round of the tournament in the semi-finals but was at his best in the group match against Norwich, when he scored a brilliant goal from a corner two minutes from time to clinch a 5-4 victory and ensure a place for Southampton in the semi-finals. Nail, Lawson, Clift and an Assey who scored Southampton's other scorers with Rowley, Port and Halliday (2) replying for Norwich.

Birmingham made sure of their place in the semi-finals with a 5-2 win against South London after conceding an early goal. Sherwani and Andy Cook having engineered their recovery, London North qualified after beating Hull 7-5 and Bristol finished on top of group B for their place in the semi-finals following an 8-2 win against Manchester. Southampton were runners-up in group A. Birmingham and Southampton had played a lively overtime on Friday with a group A match.

Despite the fine grass pitches, the hard ground posed problems for some players whose balance did not always equal their enthusiasm in the two Barclays Bank girls' territorial schools tournaments on Saturday (Joyce Whitehead writes).

Edwards VII Upper School, Melton Mowbray, took home the Under-18 shield after beating Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Ashbourne, by one goal.

The Under-16 section was won by Alderbrook School, West Midlands, but only after a scoreless final, extra time, penalty strokes play-off and then sudden death when they beat Denstone College, A.C. Culford, Suffolk.

Radio on wrong wave-length

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

The resumption of racing in Ireland today is assured after yesterday's rain and indeed Mr Norman Collier, the manager of the National Hunt, complained that only the lack of co-operation on the part of the Radio Eireann forced the postponement of Saturday's fixture.

"When we held an inspection at Barn on Saturday there was a certain amount of frost in the ground and it would not have been possible to race at that time," he said. "However, we were hopeful that conditions would improve later in the morning and asked Radio Eireann if they would announce a fresh inspection at 10.30am with the result being given in the 11 o'clock news bulletin. But they refused and in the circumstances we could not take the chance of giving the meeting the go-ahead."

Britanny Boy, who finished fifth to Crimmon Embars in the Waterford Crystal Stayer's Hur-

die at Cheltenham last March, has taken well to jumping fences and he can win the inaugural Dawn Run Novices Chase, sponsored by Dawn Run's owner, Mrs Charmian Hill.

Before landing a Leopardstown novices event by 12 lengths he had figured in a closely-fought finish here, taking second place over the ordinary in the W O'Grady Memorial Hurdle at Thurles when beating Deep Idol by 15 lengths, the identical margin by which River Celtic beat Deep Idol in last season's Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices Hurdle at Cheltenham.

One has to take that form with certain reservations but if Candy Su can show anything approaching that running he should successfully concede the title to Helysuar, who has been beaten since running a good fifth to Barnbrook again in the Ladbrokes Hurdle at Leopardstown.

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HOCKEY

Sherwani guides Birmingham to indoor triumph

By Sydney Friskin

Iranian Sherwani, one of England's World Cup players, earned the player of the tournament award after scoring nine goals for Birmingham, who won the Lada Inter-City indoor championship at Crystal Palace on Saturday after defeating Southampton 7-2 in the final.

Birmingham's £2,000 prize will be divided among the indoor clubs who supplied the players for the Midlands cup. Sherwani, who scored three goals in Birmingham's 4-2 second final win over London North, played no small part in the triumph. The other clubs who offered players to Birmingham were Stourport, South Notts, Harborne, Bourneville and Pickwick.

Richard Lennan, Southampton's hero, dominated the first round of the tournament in the semi-finals but was at his best in the group match against Norwich, when he scored a brilliant goal from a corner two minutes from time to clinch a 5-4 victory and ensure a place for Southampton in the semi-finals. Nail, Lawson, Clift and an Assey who scored Southampton's other scorers with Rowley, Port and Halliday (2) replying for Norwich.

Birmingham made sure of their place in the semi-finals with a 5-2 win against South London after conceding an early goal. Sherwani and Andy Cook having engineered their recovery, London North qualified after beating Hull 7-5 and Bristol finished on top of group B for their place in the semi-finals following an 8-2 win against Manchester. Southampton were runners-up in group A. Birmingham and Southampton had played a lively overtime on Friday with a group A match.

Despite the fine grass pitches, the hard ground posed problems for some players whose balance did not always equal their enthusiasm in the two Barclays Bank girls' territorial schools tournaments on Saturday (Joyce Whitehead writes).

Edwards VII Upper School, Melton Mowbray, took home the Under-18 shield after beating Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Ashbourne, by one goal.

The Under-16 section was won by Alderbrook School, West Midlands, but only after a scoreless final, extra time, penalty strokes play-off and then sudden death when they beat Denstone College, A.C. Culford, Suffolk.

Radio on wrong wave-length

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

The resumption of racing in Ireland today is assured after yesterday's rain and indeed Mr Norman Collier, the manager of the National Hunt, complained that only the lack of co-operation on the part of the Radio Eireann forced the postponement of Saturday's fixture.

"When we held an inspection at Barn on Saturday there was a certain amount of frost in the ground and it would not have been possible to race at that time," he said. "However, we were hopeful that conditions would improve later in the morning and asked Radio Eireann if they would announce a fresh inspection at 10.30am with the result being given in the 11 o'clock news bulletin. But they refused and in the circumstances we could not take the chance of giving the meeting the go-ahead."

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die at Cheltenham last March, has taken well to jumping fences and he can win the inaugural Dawn Run Novices Chase, sponsored by Dawn Run's owner, Mrs Charmian Hill.

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FOOTBALL

Barcelona inspired by Lineker treble

By Sydney Friskin

Barcelona (Reuter) — The English international, Gary Lineker, scored three times to give the Spanish league leaders, Barcelona, a 3-2 win at Real Madrid in their top-of-the-table clash on Saturday night. It was the first time anyone had scored three times in the Spanish league this season.

Watched by 115,000 people, including the English manager, Bobby Robson, and millions more on live television, Lineker seemed to have sealed the match with two close-range goals in the first half. He added a third — at the start of the second half.

But, in the season's most glamorous fixture, the champions came back with goals from Argentina's Valdano and the Mexican, Sanchez, who scored a penalty nine minutes from time.

Tottenham Hotspur have five players doubtful for tonight's Littlewoods cup top-round replay at home to West Ham United. Glenn Hoddle, Mitchell Thomas, Tony Galvin, Paul Allen and the goalkeeper, Ray Clemence, were all injured in Saturday's four-goal defeat by Aston Villa.

Stewart Robson, who was ineligible for Saturday's FA Cup tie against Orient, will almost certainly return for West Ham, but the Londoners have their injury problems with Alan Devonshire, Alvin Martin and Geoff Pike all struggling for fitness.

Ricky Hill, Luton Town's former England midfield player, is to be transferred if he does not change his mind about accepting a new contract. Hill, aged 27, recently received a £53,000 testimonial cheque for 10 years' service with Luton.

Joe Jordan, of Southampton, will decide over the weekend whether to leave the club for a month's loan with the chance of a permanent transfer. The former Scottish international forward, who is now 35, once played in the same Leeds United team as the present Bristol City manager, Terry Cooper.

History haunts Rangers

By Hugh Taylor

Rangers, who have spent £27m on building Scotland's most expensive team, are expected to go into the transfer market again following the 1-0 defeat by Celtic at Ibrox on Saturday. This time their target will be a forward with a scoring touch as "Rangers" consider a lacklustre approach was one of the reasons for their defeat.

As happened 20 years ago, when Rangers were knocked out of the Cup in the same round by Berwick Rangers and the forwards, Forrest and McLean, were blamed, the present spearhead of McLean, who is likely to be replaced by the English imports, West and Neil Woods. But it is understood that another new face is being sought.

Hamilton, who defended for most of the match, with a goal scored by Sproul, the left back, in the 70th minute.

Aberdeen and Celtic staged an ice spectacular at Pittodrie yesterday as Scotland's live televised cup-tie ended in a thrilling 2-2 draw.

Aberdeen, the holders, looked as if they were sliding out of the competition when they trailed to goals from McNally and McIlair, from the penalty spot, at half-time. But, after a goal by Neil Woods, the game was followed by an equalizer from the substitute, Hewitt, only five minutes later, helped Aberdeen salvage a deserved draw and a replay at Parkhead on Wednesday night.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

Patricia Routledge: Missing Persons, Radio 4, 10.15pm

A bottomless well of ignorance

● If an investigative report calls itself *Starting from the Bottom* (ITV, 8.30pm), then that is where you would expect it to start. Not so this week's *World in Action*. If you are making a film about the appalling illiteracy and innumeracy in Britain (*World in Action* puts it at 13 per cent of the population), there can only be one place to begin — and that is in the schoolroom, the natural environment of the three Rs. But, beyond recording the fact that the principal excuse offered by the illiterate is that they "messed about in school", and interviewing a boy who admits to playing truant four days a week because he is "not learnin' nothin' and don't like the teachers or the subjects", the film makes so serious attempt to find out just what has gone wrong with an educational system that turns out people such as the man who

CHOICE

lives off beefburgers because he can, at least, tell what is inside the packet by the picture on the outside. Having made the point that *Starting from the Bottom* actually starts higher up the curve of the non-learning process, I must add that goes into some important detail where it comes to what is being done in the sixth forms and through job creation schemes in an attempt to try to stop the rot before it goes too far. Even here, though, it must be an admission of failure that the only way to get the youngsters to learn their English and maths is to wrap the lessons up in such a way that they don't really know what it is that they are actually being sold.

● This week's Rumpole tale, *Rumpole and the Official Secret*

(ITV, 9.00pm) has its full quota of intelligent fun, but it also gives us a more than usually penetrating glimpse of John Mortimer's serious side. Only a writer of Mortimer's skill could turn what looks like a simple case of indiscretion by a civil servant (the leaking to a scandal column of the fact that a year's Whitehall cash spent on tea and biscuits would have paid for the Crimean War three times over) into a wry Rumpolian reflection on the sometimes fatal forces that obsessively secrecy can let loose.

● Radio highlights: The serialisation of David Cook's *Missing Persons* starts on A Book at Bedtime (Radio 4, 10.15pm). The reader is Patricia Routledge. Is any other inducement necessary to get you to listen in?

Peter Davalle



Dr Bruno Bettelheim: The Man who Cared for Children (Horizon, BBC2, 8.10pm)

BBC1

- 6.30** *Cee-fax AM*, 6.55 *Weather*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson, and Jeremy Paxman. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. Regional news and traffic reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
8.40 *Watchdog*. Consumer complaints. 8.55 *Regional news and weather*.
9.00 *News and weather*, 9.05 *Day to Day*. With Robert Kirby-Silk. 8.45 *Parent Programme*. Additives in children's foods.
10.00 *News and weather*, 10.05 *Neighbours*. (r) 10.25 *Children's BBC*. Programme news, 10.30 *Play School*. (r) 10.50 *For the Engine*. (r)
10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Martin Jarvis with a thought for the day. 11.00 *News and weather*. 11.05 *Gardeners' World*. The propagation and cultivation of roses. (r) 11.35 *Open Air* includes news and weather at 12.00.
12.20 *The Tom O'Connor Roadshow*. Variety from the Guildhall, Portsmouth. 12.55 *Regional news and weather*.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Martin Lewis. Weather. 1.25 *Neighbours*. Paul's latest amour doesn't please his father. 1.50 *Hockey Cokey*. (r)
2.05 *The Onedin Line*. James faces ruin as the crew of his fruit-carrying vessel mutiny, putting his fresh cargo at risk. (r) 2.25 *Music Match*. Musical quiz presented by Barry Cryer. 3.25 *Valerie*. American domestic comedy series.
3.50 *Postman Pat*. (r) 4.05 *Captain Cavern*. (r) 4.20 *Jackanory*. Su Pollard with one of Margaret Maty's. *Raging Robots and Unruly Objects*.
4.30 *The Mysterious Cities of Gold*.
4.55 *John Craven's Newsround*. 5.05 *Joe Peter*. Mark Curry is on Shetland for the

- colourful Viking ceremony of Up-Helly-Aa! when a Viking ship is trundled through the town and then ceremoniously reduced to cinders. (Cee-fax)
5.35 *Red Herring*. Cartoon Time.
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather.
6.35 *London Plus*.
7.00 *Wogan*. With Lionel Blair. Rum Lawrence and her father, and mother and daughter, country and western singers. Naomi and Wynonna Judd.
7.35 *The Golden Oldie Picture Show*. Dave Lee Travis introduces another selection of old pop favourites, dressed up in a modern video. (r)
8.00 *Wildlife on One: The Body Snatchers*. Film from the jungles of Panama and the deserts of Arizona illustrating the wondrous destruction and slave trading that is wreaked by marauding army ants. (Cee-fax)
8.30 *Three Up, Two Down*. Comedy series starring Angela Thorne and Michael Elphick as in-laws sharing the same grandchild. (r) (Cee-fax)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Julia Somerville and Andrew Harvey. Regional news and weather.
9.30 *Panorama: The Private Wars of Colonel North*. Michael Cookerell reports from the United States on how President Reagan is coping with the Iran arms scandal, examining its impact on Reagan's administration, and the consequential effect on the British government.
10.10 *Films: The Silent Partner* (1978) starring Elliott Gould, Christopher Plummer, and Susan York. Thriller about a bank clerk who foils a robbery planned by a psychotic crook, and decides to keep the money himself. Directed by Dary Duke. (Cee-fax) 11.55 *Weather*.

BBC 2

- 5.55** *The Week in the Lords*. (r)
6.30 *Daytime on Two*. Four self-employed youngsters learn to deal with the public. 10.00 *For four and five-year olds*. 10.15 *Music: melody*. 10.25 *Scottish children's songs and games* from earlier generations.
11.00 *Sedna and the Seals* (Cee-fax) 11.25 *English: social realism in literature*.
11.45 *Living with a handicap*; and a young Sikh girl's clash of cultures. 12.00 *A profile of an Italian art restorer*. 12.40 *A discussion on the issues that divide East and West*. 1.05 *Micro Live*. 1.20 *Technical jobs in television*. 2.00 *News and weather*. 2.25 *Words and pictures*. 2.15 *Coastal erosion*.
2.35 *See Hear* (r).
3.00 *News and weather*.
3.05 *The Ascent of Man*. Dr Bronowski continues his personal history of Mankind. (r)
3.50 *News, regional news, and weather*.
4.00 *Pamela Armstrong*.
4.35 *One in Four*. For the disabled. Holidays for people with special needs is among today's topics.
5.05 *My Music*. A light-hearted musical quiz.
5.30 *Did You See...?* A revised version of yesterday's programme.
6.00 *Film: Charlie Chen and the Red Dragon* (1945) starring Sidney Toller. A top scientist, in Mexico, loses secret papers dealing with the atom. The secret is in the hands of a Chinese agent who is promptly murdered for his trouble.
7.00 *Bike Brothers*. The story of three brothers — Jack, Norman and Norman Taylor — who have been working together in Stockton-on-Tees for half a century, building specialist motorbikes for the cognoscenti.
7.30 *World Skiing Championships*. The Men's Super Giant Slalom.
8.10 *Horizons: Bruno Bettelheim*. Part one of a two-part programme examining the work of the renowned child psychologist. Former residents at Bettelheim's school talk about what it was like to be emotionally disturbed.
9.00 *A Small Problem*. Comedy series, set in the future when small people are declared non-persons and sent to live in ghettos. (Cee-fax)
9.30 *Moonlighting*. A desperate man appeals to Maddy and David after he arranges for his own death after his wife dies but now has a reason to live.
10.15 *Nozzers*. The second of four programmes following the fortunes of an intake into the Royal Navy's HMS Raleigh training depot.
10.45 *Newsnight*. 11.30 *Weather*.
11.35 *Teletext*. The news from Australia's ORF television station. Ends at 12.05.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.15** *TV-am* presented by Richard Keys. Weather at 6.20 and 6.50; news at 6.30; sport at 6.40; and exercises at 6.55.
7.00 *Good Morning Britain* with Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.35; sport at 7.40; pop music at 7.55; and Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.35. After Nine includes *Baywatch*, and at 9.17 *Help! Community action news* from Viv Taylor Gae.
9.25 *Thames news*.
9.30 *Schools*. A film to stimulate creative work. 9.47 *How a school's television programme is filmed*. 9.50 *Learning to read* with Bill Oddie. 10.11 *The natural history of ordinary surroundings*. 10.25 *Children from an inner-city comprehensive swap places for a day with pupils from a prep school*. 10.45 *First year German*. 11.07 *Simple mathematical concepts*. 11.19 *Science: the uses of colour*. 11.47 *How different people have common needs*.
12.00 *Flicks*, presented by Christopher Lillier. (r) 12.10 *Let's Pretend to the story of The Ball That Lost Its Bounce*.
12.30 *Just What Did the Doctor Order?* Penny Morris in the second programme in her series on the problems posed by prescriptions.
1.00 *News at One* with Leonard Parfitt. 1.20 *Thames news*.
1.30 *Films: On the Beach* (1952) starring Robert Newton. Norman years to be a policeman like his dad. When he wears his father's old uniform he is mistaken for a real constable. Directed by Robert Asch. 3.25 *Thames news*.
4.00 *Tickle on the Tum*. Village tales for children. 4.10 *Back to the Future*. 4.20 *How Dave Yout with Clive Webb*. John Gorman, and Carrie Gray.

- 4.35** *Roadrunner*. 4.45 *Dodger, Bonzo and the Rest*. Drama serial set in (r) (Oracle) children's home. (r) (Oracle)
5.15 *Connections*. Quiz game for sixth formers presented by Sue Robbie.
5.45 *News with Alastair Stewart*.
6.00 *Thames news*.
6.25 *Help! Community action news* from Viv Taylor Gae.
6.35 *Crossroads*.
7.00 *Wish You Were Here...?* Judith Chalmers discovers the delights, or otherwise, of caravan parks. Anika Rice begins a four-film tour of the world; and Chris Kelly joins a coach tour of The Netherlands, staying with a Dutch family. (Oracle)
7.30 *Coronation Street*. Will the hospital staff be able to stop Gail (Tilly's) labour? (Oracle)
8.00 *The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole*. Episode five and Mr and Mrs Mole attempt a reconciliation — under Adrian's rules. (Oracle)
8.30 *World in Action: Staring from the Bottom*. A documentary about the millions in Britain who have literacy problems, focusing on Rochdale. (see Choice)
9.00 *Rumpole of the Bailey*. The acerbic advocate defends a civil servant accused of leaking classified information to the Press. (see Choice) (Oracle)
10.00 *News at Ten* and weather followed by *Thames news*.
10.30 *The New Avengers*. Stead and Purdy become involved with beautiful girls and middle-aged men. (r)
11.30 *Thames Debate*. Michael Barrett chairs a debate on 'That Government should allow councils to set their own rates according to local requirements without interference'.
12.30 *Tales from the Darkside*. A telephone answering machine develops a voice and mind of its own.
12.55 *Night Thoughts*.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.30** *The Late Late Show*. Dublin's late night music and chat show presented by Gay Byrne.
3.30 *Irish Angle*. An investigation into the case of young men accused of stealing a car from southern Co. Dublin in February 1984, during which the vehicle was driven away at speeds between 50-60 mph with the owner clinging to the bonnet. Those arrested were tried and imprisoned but now there is a doubt about their guilt.
4.00 *Mavis on 4*. Mavis Nicholson in conversation with Bobby Keane, a schizotypic. He talks about his experiences and what it is like to be mentally ill.
4.30 *Countdown*. To celebrate the 500th edition of the fast moving words and numbers game, the two regular adjudicators, Bill Tidy and Gyles Brandreth, compete against each other supported by former champions.
5.15 *Back to the Roots*. Richard Mabey begins an eight-part series which tells the story of plants and their changing fortunes over the ages. This first programme begins on the north Norfolk coast with samphire and sea spinach. (r) (Oracle)
6.30 *Education Extra*. A new, eight-part weekly magazine programme examining issues in the world of education. The first topic is the Northern Ireland teachers' unions who are pushing for a broader introduction to comprehensive education in the province.
7.00 *Channel 4 News*.
7.50 *Comment*. A viewer's thoughts on a topical subject. Weather.
8.00 *Channel 4*.
8.30 *Chateaufort* — Fortane and Power. Episode two and the body found on the beach estate is identified as that of a journalist, Paul Bossis.
8.30 *Relative Strangers*. Fitz and John are alarmed when the owner of their favourite cafe threatens to sell up.
10.00 *Hill Street Blues*. Goldblume takes the law into his own hands when his ex-wife is sexually assaulted; and Daveport makes a last minute attempt to stop the execution of a man found guilty of killing a nun. (Oracle)
10.55 *The Eleventh Hour*. Serious Undertakings. A film that touches on politics, terrorism, pleasure, nationalism, and feminism, in Australia today. Followed by *Waiting for Alana*. A wife waits for her feck businessman husband to return home.
12.15 *Their Lordships' House*. Ends at 12.30.

VARIATIONS

- BBC1** *Wales* 5.35-6.00pm *Wales Today* 6.35-7.00 *Rumour Graft at the Walnut Tree* 11.25-12.00 *Wales Today* 12.35-1.00 *Wales Today* 1.35-2.00 *Wales Today* 2.35-3.00 *Wales Today* 3.35-4.00 *Wales Today* 4.35-5.00 *Wales Today* 5.35-6.00 *Wales Today* 6.35-7.00 *Wales Today* 7.35-8.00 *Wales Today* 8.35-9.00 *Wales Today* 9.35-10.00 *Wales Today* 10.35-11.00 *Wales Today* 11.35-12.00 *Wales Today* 12.35-1.00 *Wales Today* 1.35-2.00 *Wales Today* 2.35-3.00 *Wales Today* 3.35-4.00 *Wales Today* 4.35-5.00 *Wales Today* 5.35-6.00 *Wales Today* 6.35-7.00 *Wales Today* 7.35-8.00 *Wales Today* 8.35-9.00 *Wales Today* 9.35-10.00 *Wales Today* 10.35-11.00 *Wales Today* 11.35-12.00 *Wales Today* 12.35-1.00 *Wales Today* 1.35-2.00 *Wales Today* 2.35-3.00 *Wales Today* 3.35-4.00 *Wales Today* 4.35-5.00 *Wales Today* 5.35-6.00 *Wales Today* 6.35-7.00 *Wales Today* 7.35-8.00 *Wales Today* 8.35-9.00 *Wales Today* 9.35-10.00 *Wales Today* 10.35-11.00 *Wales Today* 11.35-12.00 *Wales Today* 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Bank of America

Down and out: The end for England against Australia as Small is caught by Matthews (Photograph: Graham Morris)

